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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

NUT hears classroom action calls Teachers' leader fears militant election backlash

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Britain's biggest teaching union were last night heading for a series of confrontations with militant delegates to their annual conference, who are seeking support for a new wave of industrial action in schools.

Six separate calls for action are contained in the conference agenda, which was drawn up before the Conservative election victory. The proposals range from a boycott of national curriculum tests and a refusal to co-operate with staff appraisals to possible strikes over redundancies, pay, class sizes and special educational needs.

The first clash took place yesterday as the union's executive met in Blackpool. Eight of the 40 members, questioning the value of a moderate approach, opposed a motion reasserting the union's campaign to win public support for state education.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, saw the revolt as the start of a backlash against the election result among a minority of

teachers. "I think delegates who come here have every right to feel angry and to feel resentment and frustration. They have had another year of being asked to do more, being asked to achieve change without any proof that the change is for the better."

Mr McAvoy expressed confidence that the moderate line would prevail at this weekend's conference, but said that delegates would still vote for action on some issues. He urged parents not to assume that schools would be disrupted, since teachers were reluctant to endorse strike calls except as a last resort.

The NUT has lost thousands of members in recent years, and is likely to lose more if teachers see its demands as unrealistic. The leadership will try to minimise the risk of strikes by separating debates on policy from proposals for industrial action. By postponing decisions on action until Tuesday, the last morning of the conference, they hope to allow moderates to express dissatisfaction without committing the union to action when the NUT held its conference.

The delegates are unlikely to accept this manoeuvre when the conference opens this morning. Hard left groups have won an increased share of conference places, and are expected to command almost half the votes. They will press for action today both on national curriculum tests and special educational needs. Militant London associations propose support for teachers who refuse to administer or mark tests due next month, and want members not to co-operate with pilot tests for 14-year-olds.

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There will also be a call for a boycott of next year's tests if the government refuses to scrap them before the end of the year. Left wingers believe that they lost the 1991 ballot because much of the assessment of seven-year-olds had already begun, so they are not risking a repeat this year.

Opt-out fears, page 2

Lockerbie hopes fade

The British lawyer for two Libyans wanted for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie dampened earlier hopes that they would agree to stand trial in the West.

Stephen Mitchell told Sky Television News that the accused Libyans have always said that they would travel to any country "where they could get a fair trial. They asked us to recognise that a trial in the US or in Scotland would be unlikely to be understood to be seen to be a fair trial". Page 8

Job sacrifice

Workers asked to find cost savings in the accounts department of Rover, one of Britain's biggest companies, found a dramatic if effective solution: they sacked themselves. Page 3

Istanbul raid

Six women and a central committee member were among 11 Turkish guerrillas of the Dev Sol group killed when police, apparently tipped off by an informer, raided flats in Istanbul. Page 10

Lloyd's plea

Hundreds of Lloyd's names could be ruined after failure of a court action to stop Lloyd's calling in assets. A new appeal is planned next week. Page 17

£40m kick-off

Football's new Premier League is being offered a sponsorship package of £40 million over four years by ITV, a satellite television sports channel and an advertising company. Page 32

Jams and deaths mark start to holiday

By PETER VICTOR

THE Easter holidays began yesterday with gloomy weather, traffic congestion and tragedy. In the Midlands a 25-mile jam clogged the northbound carriageway of the M6 between junctions 4 and 12. Roadworks led to a large hold-up on the A55 at Halkyn, Cheshire.

Business was brisk at airports, with travel agents reporting a 10 per cent increase in demand for foreign trips.

Heathrow expects to handle two million passengers over the two-week school holiday. P&O expects a record 220,000 Channel ferry passengers this weekend, with numbers boosted by the new EuroDisney site in France.

Ten people in a Ford Capri were injured when it crashed into a wall in Weston-super-Mare, Avon. Last night the woman driver was in intensive care with chest injuries and a woman passenger was in intensive care with head injuries. A man died and six people, including three police officers, were injured after a car was in collision with a police van in Tulse Hill, southwest London.

An AA patrol man collected a 6ft South American alligator from a van in a Sussex traffic jam and drove it 170 miles to a safari park at Bewdley, Worcestershire.

The London Weather Centre said the weekend would be dry, warm and cloudy, with rain on the way.

Travellers warned, page 3

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Gould moves to lift debate in Labour election race

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN Gould tried to cool the temperature in the race for the Labour leadership yesterday by calling campaign managers together to work out ground rules for the contest.

He has asked the managers to meet privately to agree ways of ensuring a dignified debate and avoiding a slide into internecine warfare. Those running the campaigns on behalf of John Smith and Ken Livingstone for the leadership, and Margaret Beckett, Ann Clwyd and John Prescott for the deputy leadership, have been invited.

Mr Gould, the party's environment spokesman, who is standing for the leadership and deputy leadership after the resignations of Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley, said yesterday: "This contest should be a good-natured debate that should be seen as part of the renewal process the Labour party now needs. It should not be about personalities."

"The party expects us to behave in a civilised way and, of course, we are all good colleagues and so will find it

easy to do so. That is why our campaign will be happy to meet with the other campaigns to agree some sensible ground rules of campaign conduct."

The meeting is likely to take place between David Blunkett for Bryan Gould; Gordon Brown for Margaret Beckett; Robin Cook for John Smith; Richard Caborn for John Prescott; and those helping Ken Livingstone and Ann Clwyd.

With nominations closing on April 29 and the electoral college deciding the new leader and deputy on July 18, Mr Gould is worried at the prospect of the race disintegrating into a slanging match between the contestants, who will have to work together afterwards. One fear is that personalised attacks could jeopardise the unity of the future shadow cabinet.

Bob Cryer, the veteran left-wing Labour MP, urged the party to delay the contest until October and abolish the "gerrymandering" rule requiring the support of 54 MPs before a candidate can stand. He criticised the decision to decide the new leaders at a one-day conference in July when the party was already £2.5 million in deficit.

The MP for Bradford South said: "I am concerned about the gerrymandering of the electoral college that took place in 1988 when the qualifying number of nomination votes was moved from 5 per cent to 20 per cent. This means that in the current position, a maximum of ten candidates can stand for both posts."

"It seems to me that the rules should be changed to allow for a wider selection of candidates. This rule was introduced in 1988 to prevent any further elections which the leadership regarded as inconvenient. It was an erosion of the democratic process of the Labour party."

Letters, page 13

Boothroyd favourite to be next Speaker

By SHEILA GUNN

JOHN Major has made clear to colleagues that he will distance himself from the contest to be the next Commons Speaker and leave the choice in the hands of backbenchers. Betty Boothroyd, a deputy Speaker and Labour MP for West Bromwich, is emerging as a favourite in spite of Tory Whigs' insistence that the Speaker should again come from the governing party.

The prime minister also believes that another Conservative MP should replace Bernard Weatherill, according to senior sources, but recognises that showing preference is likely to be the kiss of death for that candidate.

Miss Boothroyd's support, together with the determination of other candidates to put their names forward, points to the Commons holding the first serious contest and vote for the post of Speaker for more than 40 years. The former Tiller girl is winning growing support from Tory MPs, who believe the selection of Speaker from the Labour benches – and the first Madam Speaker – would be fair after nine years of a Tory Speaker. Such a move is supported by Edward Heath, who as the new father of the House will be in charge of the selection.

Although Peter Brooke, the retiring Northern Ireland secretary, is known to have his eye on the job, some of his intimates believe he would drop out rather than push a contest with Miss Boothroyd to a Commons vote.

Hot on Miss Boothroyd's heels is Paul Channon, the former Tory cabinet minister, and other favoured candidates are Terence Higgins, the former Treasury minister, and Sir Giles Shaw, who has served on the Speaker's panel of chairmen.

Dame Janet Fookes is talked of as the first woman Speaker from the Tory benches, but her majority in Plymouth Drake of a mere 2,013 gives her only an outside chance of success. The other Labour candidate is the businesslike deputy Speaker, Harold Walker, MP for Doncaster Central.

Schools fear cut in opt-out cash

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

ORGANISATIONS representing local education authorities have called for urgent clarification of government plans to allow thousands of schools to opt out of local authority control.

The Conservative victory in the general election, which safeguards the immediate future of grant-maintained schools, is expected to prompt a fresh burst of interest in opting out.

In a letter to the education department, Stephen Byers, chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities, said that the financial incentives open to schools seeking grant-maintained status should be spelled out in greater detail.

"If the present funding arrangements continue unchanged, then large scale opting out will require substantial additional resources," said Mr Byers, quoting independent research by Leicester University. "If most of the secondary

NUT conference, page 1

Ulster talks to restart this month

THE inter-party talks aimed at finding a political breakthrough in Northern Ireland will restart before the end of the month.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, held preliminary discussions yesterday with John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance party, and met separately with the SDLP. He earlier rejected suggestions that the talks had been down-graded.

Sir Patrick met James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist leader, in London on Wednesday and is expected to meet Ian Paisley next week.

• Sir Hugh Annesley, RUC chief constable, said there was no noticeable improvement in the security situation. He was speaking after having briefed Sir Patrick and Michael Mates, his security minister, at police HQ in Belfast.

Hunt for killers, page 16

EEC SAUSAGE HORROR

Our reliable source says that EEC Commissioners are changing the name of the great British sausage to SPECTRANGLE. This is in honour of the tremendous success of this brilliant new strategy game from the UK. The Commissioners may be daff but seriously though

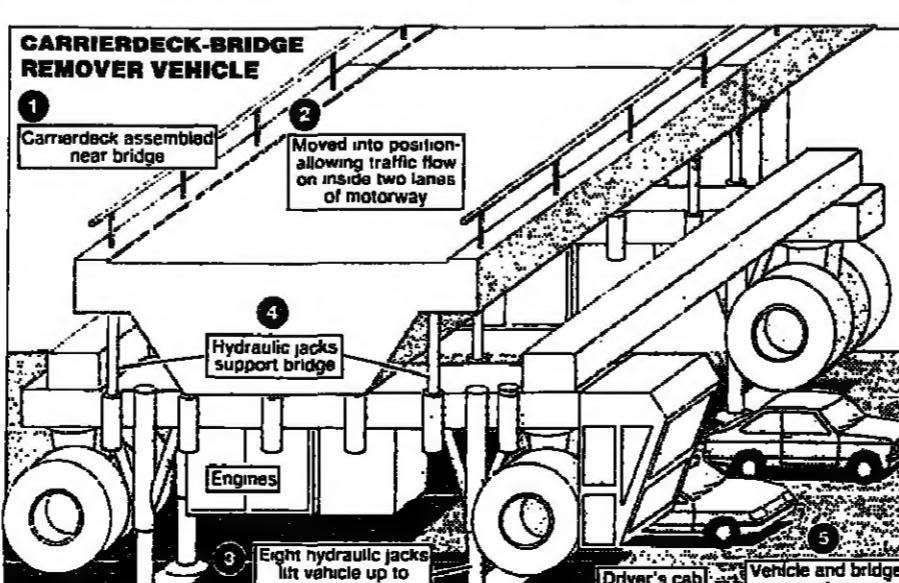
SPECTRANGLE is probably the best new game since the invention of the sausage. Get your teeth into SPECTRANGLE at W.H. Smith, Harrods, Hamleys, all leading department stores and good toy shops.

Old bridges will crash out without halting traffic

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A 350-tonne transporter designed to remove old motorway bridges quickly and without halting traffic has been devised by a British businessman. Carrierdeck allows traffic to pass beneath it while the bridge spans are detached. It is hoped that it will avoid the disruption caused last month when the removal of the Ings Road bridge closed the M4 in Avon for several days.

The machine was invented by Tony Preedy, whose company in southeast London specialises in solving construction industry problems. He was approached almost two years ago by Ove Arup, which was trying to find a way of removing a small piece of concrete over a road leading to Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. "I said, 'What is needed is a mobile crash deck cum trolley arrangement', and they said it sounded like a good idea," Mr Preedy said.



The transport department was approached. "They said, 'No problem, but what a pity that the machine is not bigger for use with motorway bridges.' At that point, all the lights started flashing and we have been burning the mid-

night oil ever since," Ron Marsh, business development director at Ove Arup in London, which is carrying out the proof engineering on the machine's design, said it was a sound concept. Sections of the machine

City noise hides crux of Christ's passion

By ROBIN YOUNG

SEVERAL thousand people witnessed a re-enactment of the crucifixion in central London yesterday. While most were there as an act of faith and worship, several hundred more plainly tagged along because they could not think of a better way to spend Easter.

Victoria Street, from Westminster Cathedral to Westminster Abbey, via New Scotland Yard and the Methodists' Central Hall, doubled as the Via Dolorosa, and a troupe of professional actors, dressed variously in blankets, jeans, and construction workers' donkey jackets, took the parts of Christ, his disciples and sympathisers, and his torturers and executioners.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, and the Right Rev David Hope, the Bishop of London, ecumenically greeted the audience and gave the performance their blessings.

Mr Capstick, Yorkshire area vice-chairman of the National Union of Miners, said that Arthur Scargill, the general secretary, was likely to call the action if British Coal refused to meet for talks or to compromise. He said: "The last thing that this industry needs now is any kind of industrial action. This industry is fighting for its life and I would have thought that the management and the unions could be sitting around the table talking about these issues."

Mr Capstick said that the growing use of outside contractors was privatisation through the back door. "It's as big a threat to us as imported coal or gas."

British Coal said that it was essential for the future of Markham Main to hire specialist teams of contractors for development work. Kevin Hunt, employee relations director, said the vote was "as sad as it is futile. The days have long passed when there could be any reward for industrial action. If it takes place, at any colliery, it will merely threaten still further an already uncertain future".

Environment centre fined

A government-funded environment research centre has been fined for river pollution. The Grassland and Environmental Research Institute was said to be "acutely embarrassed" over the leak of dirty water from its farm into a tributary of the River Taw in north Devon.

A fleet of tourist coaches drowned much of the alliterative text of Tony Harrison's mystery play, *The Passion*, and a group of homeless hecklers swigging from lager cans on a bench at the back of the green were more audible for some of the audience than were the actors.

Music was provided by trumpeters of the Life Guards, the Chalk Farm band of the Salvation Army, and at Central Hall, Westminster, the procession paused for refreshments: cheese sandwiches with an apple at £1 a time.

Audibility improved upstairs in the Great Hall, where the troupe played out the Last Supper and the betrayal, before the audience disrupted the traffic once more to cross the road to Westminster Abbey for the crucifixion, played out to spirituals sung by a gospel choir.

Collections were taken at Central Hall and in the abbey for the homeless in central London, and when the drama ended shortly before 3pm, many who had followed the event from beginning to end quickly hiked back down Victoria Street for a service led by Cardinal Hume in the cathedral.

London has some way to go before it rivals Oberammergau, but the clergy of all denominations involved in yesterday's event, the first of its kind, were delighted.

Doubting clergy, page 1
Clerical hazards, L&T section, page 9

A court in The Hague has ruled that *The Times* has not breached any trade marks by using the word European in the title of its continental edition. *The European Times* is the first edition of *The Times* and circulates in Europe. An application from the weekly newspaper *The European* to stop the use of the title in Holland was dismissed by the District Court in The Hague. *The European* has been ordered to pay costs of the hearing.

Bank bombed

A woman was taken to hospital suffering from shock after a bomb exploded outside a bank near the Northern Ireland High Court in Belfast yesterday. Police said that the warning given was only seconds long and was inadequate. Damage was not thought to have been extensive. Soon after the blast, police received bomb warnings for other parts of the city which proved to be hoaxes.

The machine's hydraulic jacks would lift the bridge clear and the span would be swung back through 90 degrees and driven into the field for demolition. Mr Preedy believes that the operation could take 24 hours, with the machine moved at night.

The first Carrierdeck, to be built by Wise Handling, an industrial hoist maker in Bradford, is expected by the end of the year.

The aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* joined in a rescue mission southwest of Cornwall yesterday when a Sea King rescue helicopter stopped on its deck for refuelling. The helicopter was on its way to pick up a Spanish seaman on a fishing trawler and take him to hospital in Truro. It had been scheduled to refuel in the Scillies, but the *Ark Royal* reported that she was closer to the trawler.

Local skin

Concert

Concert rise

Most cruises attractive

Lockerbie pair would accept 'fair trial' in Scotland or US

NEW efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict over the two Libyans suspected of involvement in 1988's Lockerbie bombing were under way last night after a surprise claim by the Libyan lawyer representing them that they were now willing to stand trial in Scotland or America, if a fair hearing could be guaranteed.

Egypt was understood to be among the countries involved in behind-the-scenes discussions. But it denied a report from the United Nations in New York that it had sought permission for a plane to bring Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to Cairo for talks with President Mubarak.

The claim by the Tripoli lawyer, Ibrahim Lagwell, in an interview with the Reuters news agency, was the first time it had been stated that the two accused men — Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi and Lamia Khalifa Fhimah — might submit voluntarily to a trial in America or Britain as demanded by the UN Security Council.

The offer, thought by diplomats to reflect a loss of nerve by Colonel Gaddafi, would in itself be insufficient to end

A surprise claim by a Libyan lawyer has intrigued the West. Christopher Walker writes from Cairo

sanctions, even if taken up, but Arab officials claimed it would increase feeling in the Islamic world against the sanctions and make it harder for them to be maintained.

The offer was treated cautiously in the West, but not dismissed out of hand as previous Libyan plies had been. The move led to speculation that the pressure of sanctions, imposed on April 15, and the degree of international isolation they had brought, had prompted Libya to seek a way out in spite of the risks that the two might reveal embarrassing details of the case in Western courts.

Lawrence Eagleburger, the American deputy secretary of state, said that Washington would have to see whether the offer was "serious". He said: "We have had so many other offers and then so many offers withdrawn that I think we are

going to have to wait and see if this is serious or not."

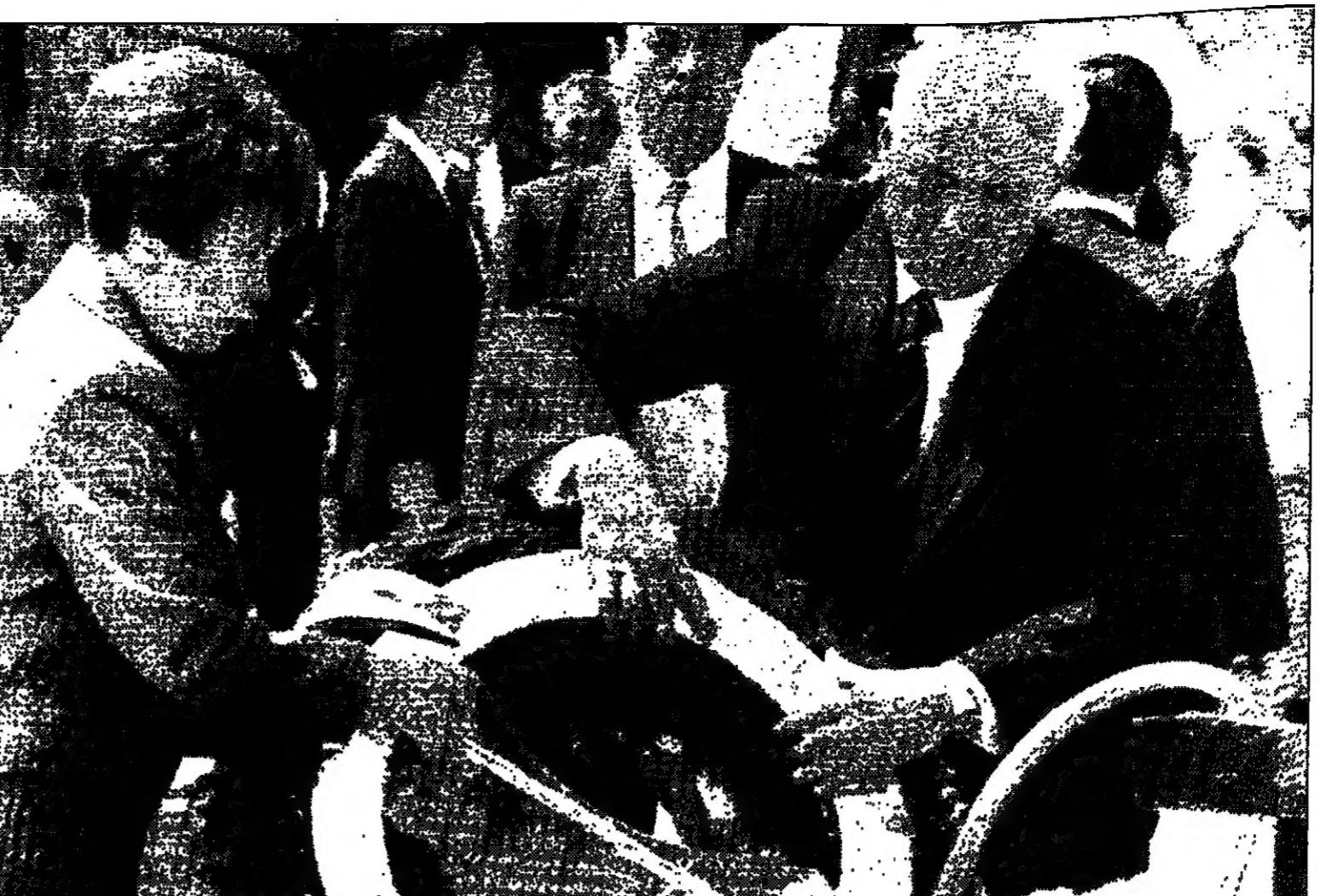
A British lawyer, Stephen Mitchell, who also represented the two accused Libyans, claimed that because of adverse pre-trial publicity it was unlikely that his clients could get a fair trial in Britain or America. But another possibility being aired was a trial in France, the third main driving force behind the sanctions resolution.

In an apparent contradiction of the report from Tripoli, Mr Mitchell said: "The accused have at all times said they would be prepared to go to any country where they could get a fair trial... They recognised that a trial in Tripoli would be unlikely to be understood to be a fair trial by the Western people. But equally they asked us to recognise that a trial in the US or in Scotland would itself be unlikely to be understood to be seen to be fair trial."

Mr Mitchell added: "The problem is that such great publicity has been given to this case on the assumption built into almost all the reports that these two men are guilty. They find it very difficult to believe that a jury who have been reading the papers and watching the television over recent months would be in a position to deliver a fair judgment." In an interview with Sky Television, Mr Mitchell said that he seriously doubted the men would be ready to stand trial in Scotland or America.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Our position remains the same, that Libya must comply with UN Resolutions 731 and 734 (to hand over the suspects) and we hope they will do so."

When Mr Lagwell was asked whether his clients would be prepared to stand trial in Scotland or America, he responded: "Yes... at any place they can have a fair trial, even in the US or Scotland. But we must have the guarantees for that." He said the suspects must be dealt with by judicial authorities, and that Libyan lawyers should be present.



Hiroshima remembered: Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, and his wife, Raisa, laying a wreath at the memorial to victims of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima's peace park after praying for their souls. The Gorbachevs are on a private visit to Japan

Peruvian leader admits he misjudged coup reaction

FROM CORINNE SCHMIDT IN LIMA

HE IS still riding high in the opinion polls, but President Fujimori of Peru seemed chastened at a meeting with foreign journalists yesterday. Once hailed as the man who had led Peru's return to the international financial community, Señor Fujimori admitted he had "misjudged" the world's reaction to his April 5 coup. He now faces the possibility that Peru's international financing may dry up.

Whether aid is cut off may depend on a mission of the Organisation of American States due to arrive in Peru on Monday. Western foreign ministers last Monday "profoundly deplored" Señor Fujimori's decision to dissolve parliament, dismiss the judiciary and suspend the constitution. But their resolution stopped short of economic sanctions, calling instead for a mission to visit Peru and

promote a negotiated return to democracy. The resolution also invited countries to "re-evaluate" their aid to Peru.

Yesterday Señor Fujimori promised to "listen with great attention and respect" to the OAS mission. He promised to respect press freedom, hold municipal and regional elections in November, and said he hoped that a new Congress could be elected in "much less" time than the 18 months announced previously. On May 1, he said, he will hold a "national dialogue" in which "all political groups will participate, without exception."

His words were much more conciliatory than just a few nights ago, when he told business that the constitutional system he had dissolved had been "a dictatorship of ineptitude" and a "bribeocracy".

Foreign sanctions threaten Peru's fragile economic stability. The United States has been particularly critical of Señor Fujimori and suspended new aid, as did Germany.

Peru pays about \$70 million (£40 million) per month on its foreign debt. Raul Salazar, an economist, said that to

make those payments "the government depends on foreign aid". Señor Salazar added that the situation would become even more difficult later this year, when Peru is scheduled to renegotiate a \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) debt.

Peruvians were poor when Señor Fujimori took office in July 1990. But according to Félix Jiménez, another economist, they are much poorer now. Under the Fujimori government's strict austerity program, Peruvians' buying power has dropped by 30 per cent.

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Kim's junket seals socialist dynasty

FROM DAVID WATTS IN PYONGYANG

Soviet-built tanks rolled through Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, yesterday, ending the f2 million, three-day party for the "Great Leader's" 80th birthday and setting the seal on the succession of his son, Kim Jong Il.

The military display ended a dazzlingly colourful celebration which included mass games by 100,000 schoolchildren, revolutionary opera and street dancing in a crescendo of carefully managed adulation for President Kim, the world's longest-serving head of state.

Although the son played no public part in the celebrations, an announcement shortly beforehand said that he had been named supreme commander of the armed forces, completing his takeover of state duties. The army is understood to have been the last centre of resistance to his attaining this role, and thus instituting the first socialist dynasty.

Searching for something to give a man who has everything — including the country's 20 million population in the palm of his hand — the central committee of the Korean Workers' party awarded the "Great Leader" the title of Generalissimo.

Puzzled Koreans now have another handle that they are compelled to use whenever they refer to Kim Il Sung. The other options are "Great Leader President Kim Il Sung"; or "Great Leader Marshal Kim Il Sung". In a country where students caught drinking can get three months in a labour camp, you make sure you keep the old man happy.

In spite of demonstrations that would not have

displeased either Mao or Stalin there were precious few "revolutionaries" on hand to enjoy the fun. Long gone are the days when communists of all stripes would have flocked here.

President Yang Shang-kun of China topped the bill, sitting at the right hand of his host to mark China's long-time friendship and its saving of the country from annihilation during the Korean war — something which Pyongyang scarcely acknowledges today. The ever-smiling Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia was there with his wife Monique, in acknowledgement of the Pyongyang villa that was provided for him during his years in exile. Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, sent his regrets and a basket of flowers.

That other great standby, Cuba, could not even spare Raoul Castro, the Cuban president's brother, even though the "Great Leader" was looking after the bills. There were a handful of gloomy East Europeans and representatives from the Commonwealth of Independent States who all looked as though they wished they were somewhere else. They were far outnumbered by the Africans.

More important was a 14-strong delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party and the delivery of a batch of brown Japanese-made luxury coaches at £120,000 a time, all signs of their country of origin carefully removed.

There were mass demonstrations in provincial towns and the people could also watch the celebrations on the country's one domestic television station.

THE TIMES

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Fujimori: taking more conciliatory approach

Shamir vents anger as support slides

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday lashed out at his critics at home and abroad as the latest opinion poll showed his ruling Likud party losing more ground to the opposition Labour party.

In *The Jerusalem Post*, he sought to counter repeated criticism of his government's handling of domestic and foreign policy by accusing the Bush administration of making secret deals with the Arabs against Israel. The move was seen as an attempt to deflect mounting criticism of his leadership, which has suffered a series of setbacks in the past two months: the refusal of the White House to grant Israel \$1 billion (£6 billion) in loan guarantees to help absorb Russian immigrants; growing unemployment; the election of the populist leader Yitzhak Rabin to head the Labour party; and most recently the serious rifts within the Likud leadership.

"In the beginning we were under the impression that the Americans were interested in reaching a compromise," said Mr Shamir. "Afterwards it materialised that they were not. And why not? Because apparently in the meantime they promised the Arabs, so the Arabs say, that the guarantees would not be granted."

Mr Shamir said later that Israel was seeking financial aid from Germany. Responding to a report that Bonn had rejected a request for help in integrating Jewish immigrants, he told Israel Radio: "I would not say that there is a final negative answer here."

His explanations for the poor state of Israeli-American relations and his threat to boycott multilateral peace talks in May if Palestinians are represented at the negotiating table are likely to satisfy his right-wing supporters. However, they do not seem to have eased the minds of a majority of the electorate who

will go to the polls on June 23 in the country's 13th general election knowing that their choice could decide the fate of the stalled Middle East peace negotiations.

A poll conducted by the Smith Research Institute and published in the Hebrew daily *Davar* yesterday showed Labour winning 34 per cent of the popular support, with Likud trailing at 29 per cent.

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Russians hurry to quit Afghanistan as Mujahidin conquerors take over

Kabul awaits new fighting as soldiers patrol city

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HEAVILY armed soldiers yesterday were reported to be patrolling the streets of Kabul, but the atmosphere was calm as the city's 1.5 million residents waited to see if fresh fighting would follow the departure of President Najibullah.

The former government leader was said to be in hiding in a United Nations building after being stopped by hundreds of guerrillas at Kabul airport, where he was attempting to flee the country with his brother. Mujahidin forces were in full control of the airport yesterday, and were searching all passengers thoroughly.

In Delhi, Dr Najibullah's brother-in-law, the Afghan ambassador Ahmed Sarwar, fled from his residence before dawn yesterday after apparently being threatened by embassy staff. He was offered protection by the Indian government. Dr Najibullah's wife and three daughters are also in India, the Indian foreign office said. A spokesman at the embassy, now sealed by police, said they had gone underground. Mr Sarwar's wife and Dr Najibullah's wife, are sisters.

The Indian foreign ministry said that requests for asylum by Dr Najibullah and his

family would be treated on individual merit. India still recognises Mr Sarwar's diplomatic status.

In a series of public broadcasts in Kabul the government, army and the Watan party reassured the UN of their full support for a UN peace plan. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, has expressed worries about the recent development which jeopardise the peace plan, and called on everyone in Afghanistan to respect the safety of UN personnel.

Russia was scrambling yesterday to get diplomats, advisers and its last prisoners of

Civil war threat, page 1



Masood: the drive of his Tajik-dominated forces on Kabul is said to have prompted the attempted flight of President Najibullah earlier this week

Ragtag forces score victory

BY MICHAEL BINYON

THE mujahidin forces now at the gates of Kabul have finally won a military victory that long eluded them when they were fractious guerrilla groups fighting as much between themselves as against the Kabul government and its Soviet allies.

The mujahidin, however, are not a unified force. Although all are committed to an Islamic republic and opposed to secular socialism, they differ in size, ideology, and tribal allegiance. The following is a list of the main groups and their leaders.

□ **Hezb-e-Islami:** Led by Abdul Rasul Sayaf. Closely aligned to the militant Muslim Brotherhood and heavily financed by Saudi Arabia's radical Islamic groups.

□ **Hezb-e-Islami Brakaway:** faction of Mr Hekmatyar's group led by Younus Khalis, a Muslim fundamentalist cleric. Forces limited to eastern Afghanistan.

□ **Harakat-e-Islami:** Led by Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, a moderate Sunni Muslim cleric.

□ **National Islamic Front of Afghanistan:** Led by Syed Ahmed Gailani, a spiritual leader of Afghanistan's mystic Sufi Islamic sect.

□ **Jamiat-e-Islami:** Led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, a

moderate. Controls much of northern Afghanistan. Has produced some of the most effective rebel commanders.

□ **Hezb-e-Wahab:** Coalition of eight, mostly Shia, guerrilla groups headquartered in Iran.

□ **Harakat-e-Islami and Shura-e-Itefaq-e-Islami:** Two smaller Shia-dominated groups based in Pakistan.

□ **Afghan National Libera-**

Offers of marriage dupe many

Pongpol Idireksan, is the son of Pramarn Idireksan, a veteran from the previous government who also had assets seized. Military officers and other non-elected appointees occupy many key positions in the new government but are not expected to make significant policy changes.

General Suchinda is defence minister as well as prime minister. An air chief marshal becomes interior minister, a powerful post controlling the police, internal security and the media, and a police general is his deputy.

The general, who engineered last year's coup, did not run in the election and had promised not to take over leadership of the government even if invited.

Suchinda: engineered military coup

Ministers tainted by corruption included in new Thai cabinet

FROM NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

GENERAL Suchinda Krapayoon, the Thai prime minister, has included politicians convicted of corruption charged in the new government despite having cited corrupt ministers as one of the reasons for last year's military coup.

Justifying his appointment of three ministers who recently had £2 million worth of personal assets confiscated, General Suchinda said they had been elected to parliament and therefore must have public support. One of them, Montri Pongpanit, becomes a deputy prime minister. Another new deputy prime minister is Narong Wongwan, who as leader of the biggest party in parliament would have become

prime minister after last month's election but for accusations that he has connections with the drug trade. The new foreign minister,

Pongpol Idireksan, is the son of Pramarn Idireksan, a veteran from the previous government who also had assets seized. Military officers and other non-elected appointees occupy many key positions in the new government but are not expected to make significant policy changes.

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Suchinda: engineered military coup

Japan's office Romeos meet their match

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPANESE women, who are not known for their assertiveness in the male-dominated workplace, won a significant victory in the country's first sexual harassment court case this week, sending shudders down the spines of millions of office Romeos.

The Fukuoka district court has ordered a publishing company to pay 1.65 million yen (£7,200) in damages to a former female employee who had filed a sexual harassment suit in August 1989. The woman, aged 34, had sought 3.6 million yen in damages on the ground that her boss had spread rumours in the office about her, alleging that she had a reputation for promiscuity. She tried to

stop her, she told the court, but she was advised instead to leave her job.

"As the first sexual harassment suit both to be filed and to be won, this is an historic case. We have a serious problem with sexual harassment in Japan and many women have suffered for years in silence, unaware that they could take legal action. This should force men to be more careful with their behaviour in the office," said Kyoko Hirayama, a woman lawyer who specialises in human rights.

Women office workers and women's rights groups generally agree that sexual harassment by men, which can range from verbal abuse to physical advances, is the

norm in the Japanese workplace. Almost half of the workforce is female, but most women are employed in secretarial positions. Dressed in dowdy grey nylon uniforms and known as "office ladies", they spend their day silently making tea and photocopies and bowing to their male superiors. They are so accustomed to sexual approaches by their bosses, that many had no idea of the meaning of the word *sekusha*, the Japanese version of sexual harassment. When it first came into use in the media in connection with the court case.

A recent survey by an insurance company found that 60 per cent of 6,500 working women in Tokyo complained

Lion of Panjshir welcomed as the saviour of Afghans

FROM REUTER IN ISLAMABAD

AHMAD Shah Masood, Afghanistan's "Lion of Panjshir", is at the gates of Kabul and being tipped to play a key role in his nation's future.

Kabul government emissaries have reportedly gone out to meet the legendary guerrilla fighter, whose drive towards Kabul this week prompted the attempted flight of President Najibullah. In 14 years of fighting, Mr Masood has won a worldwide reputation as the most effective Afghan rebel commander. During the nine-year Soviet occupation which ended in 1989, he repelled seven attacks on his native Panjshir valley north of Kabul, earning him the epithet "the Lion of Panjshir".

In the three years since the Soviet withdrawal, he has spread his control over much of northern Afghanistan and has proved to be an able administrator as well as a fighter. His civil administration, especially around the regional capital city of Taloqan in the northeast province of Takhar, has brought a measure of peace and prosperity to the battered countryside.

Above all, he has managed what few other Mujahidin commanders have done. He has instilled military virtues of discipline, organisation and meticulous planning. He has forged the nearest thing to a conventional Mujahidin army, numbering perhaps 10,000 men and equipped with dozens of captured tanks and artillery pieces.

His feats are the stuff of legend in the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan, where his portraits look down from the walls and are carried in processions. Soviet and Afghan army officers respected and feared him more than any other rebel commander.

Supporters say this success has earned him the enmity of rivals, particularly Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the hardline fundamentalist guerrilla leader with whom he has often clashed. He is also criticised for the one-year peace pact he made with

Soviet commanders in 1983, on the grounds that it freed Soviet troops to attack rebels in other areas.

A devout Muslim, Mr Masood has said his beliefs are the source of his struggle, first against the secular rule of Daoud between 1973 and 1978, then the Soviet-backed communist government that followed.

While his influence helped to make his Jamiat-e-Islami party into perhaps the biggest of the seven main rebel groups, his Tajik ancestry would make him unacceptable to Afghanistan's majority Pashtun tribes should he try to govern. Mr Masood, aged 40, the son of an army officer, was educated at a French school in Kabul. He studied civil engineering at Kabul University, where he joined the "Islamist" movement. When Daoud seized power, Mr Masood went to Pakistan where the government gave him military training. He took part in an abortive uprising in 1975 in Panjshir and was again at the forefront of rebellion only months after the communist takeover of April 1978.

Mr Masood came into his own after the Soviet intervention of December 1979. Commanding guerrillas in the Panjshir, a 75-mile-long valley northeast of Kabul, he survived seven Soviet attacks and constantly harassed the main highway from Kabul to the former Soviet Union. Supporters justify his controversial pact by saying it gave him a chance to break out of Panjshir and expand his influence through the northeastern provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar. Last month he forged a coalition with militia commanders opposing President Najibullah to capture the important northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif, capital of Balkh province.

Mr Masood's rise was supported by the fact that tribal loyalties, a barrier to large-scale military organisation in much of Afghanistan, tend to be weaker in the northeast.

Railway plan for Venice attacked

Venice: Environmental groups were up in arms yesterday after the city authorities gave the green light to plans for an underground railway through the heart of Venice.

"It is madness," said Riccardo Rabagliati, head of the local branch of the Italia Nostra conservation lobby. "Venice and its lagoon are a very special environment where people must travel only via water. It is crazy to talk of an underground railway through the heart of Venice."

The proposed 20-mile underground will have two lines, starting from the railway station and the international airport. (Reuters)

Ferries collide

Lagos: Up to 356 people were reported missing after two ferries carrying an estimated 500 passengers between Nigeria and Cameroon collided in high seas. The Nigerian navy was said to be searching for survivors. (Reuters)

Killer to die

Sacramento: Pete Wilson, the governor of California, has refused to reprieve Robert Harris, 39, due to be the first person executed in the state in 25 years. Harris was convicted of murdering two 16-year-old boys in 1978. (AFP)

Aid requested

Tokyo: A United Nations conference has ended with a declaration calling on industrialised countries to share "as an investment" the estimated \$71 billion needed for environmental protection for the Third World. (AFP)

Crash kills two

Niamey, Niger: Two airmen were killed when a French military aircraft crashed-landed as it approached Agadez 500 miles from the capital. The accident was apparently caused by a technical fault. (AFP)

Cache found

Naples: Police who raided a bar in the notorious Spanish quarter of Naples discovered guns, bullets and drugs concealed in Easter eggs being hoarded for members of the city's Mafia counterpart, the Camorra. (Reuters)

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Police kill 11 guerrillas in Istanbul raid after tip-off

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

SIX women were killed when police raided safe houses of the Dev Sol guerrilla group yesterday in Istanbul, including apparently the wife of an alleged informer. In all, eleven members of the underground group died, including Sinan Kukul, a member of its central committee.

Police said that they had identified Dursun Karatas as the man who had telephoned the tip-off giving the location of the flat where Mr Kukul and others were hiding. Mr Karatas and Mr Kukul are reported to have been comrades-in-arms who subsequently fell out. Using information captured in an all-night siege, police then raided another flat, during which a man and two women — including Sabahat Karatas, the wife of their alleged informant — were killed.

Dev Sol has claimed responsibility in the past for a series of bombings and killings, including the assassinations of policemen. Last July, 12 Dev Sol members were killed when police raided two flats, shortly before a visit by President Bush. Just before the first police siege, which began on Thursday night, an armed unit attacked a Dev Sol claimed responsibility for a rocket attack on the American consulate in Istanbul, near the British consular building — where Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is

Many Istanbul residents will hope that yesterday's raids will have curbed Dev Sol's activities. Last July's raids, according to one diplomat, appear to have put the group on the defensive. The fear is that Dev Sol will link up with Kurdish activists trying to operate outside their accustomed territory in the far southeast of the country. Disagreements within Dev Sol over such an alliance may be behind the internal divisions which apparently led to yesterday's raids.

There was violence in the southeast of Turkey, where 30 armed Kurdish separatists were killed in Savur in the province of Mardin after clashes with government forces, according to an official statement. The separatists were killed after capturing a gendarme whose tortured body, the statement said, was recovered. There was no word of four abducted village guards.



Hurd: is due to visit Istanbul next week



Heads of state: Japanese hostesses show off their uniforms, topped with Samurai-style hats, in front of Japan's pavilion at Expo '92 in Seville. The fair, at which 110 countries and 23 international organisations are

represented, is to be inaugurated by King Juan Carlos of Spain on Monday. Searing summer heat — with the temperature rising to 45°C — will be cooled by the spray from more than 100 fountains and canopies of

plants. The fair needs at least 20 million visitors to break even but it has already provided a new infrastructure for Seville.

Pavilion destroyed, page 1 Saturday Review, page 4

Poles march against church power

PASSION

Week in Poland has stirred political as well as religious passions. Demonstrators have been marching against the government's eagerness to accommodate the Roman Catholic church with compulsory religion classes, tough anti-abortion laws, tighter divorce rules and constitutional changes that would emphasise the Christian basis of the Polish state.

The main pillar of the government of Jan Olszewski is the Christian National Union party which is very close to the church. Cardinal Józef Glemp, the Primate, says Poland has to build a spiritual frontier against Western materialism. "Various golden calves are being put under our noses and we are told that this is what we are supposed to do, that this is Europe, that

you have to dance to a fren-

dergarten — five-year-olds are taught the Lord's Prayer and aspects of the Catholic Mass. Parents are reprimanded if they do not helpfully memorise the responses.

A gulf is thus emerging not only between Poles and their government, but between Poles and their schools, and Poles and their law courts (which will have to enforce the anti-abortion law when it is passed). Ninety per cent say they are Catholics and 57 per cent say they attend church at least once a week.

But the dogmas are accepted selectively. One Pole out of

two approves of living together and excuses adultery. More than 60 per cent agree with divorce and the same number tolerate illegitimate children. About 60 per cent also favour liberal abortion laws and would probably win a referendum on the issue.

The government, however, has no intention of risking such a move.

A key Christian National Union member, Stefan Niesiowski, stated the government position: "Professing a religion must not be a private matter. The law should be in line with fundamental moral principles and Christian values should be expressed in the constitution."

Church influence is being felt in many areas. The government has encouraged the church to reclaim property confiscated by the communists and 3,000 applications have been lodged. The church has reclaimed a famous theatre, the Groteska, but is allowing the company to continue renting it — on condition that all theatre material is cleared beforehand with the church and "conforms with the moral and ethical teaching of the church".

None of these frictions has translated into antipathy to the Pope. Usually his behaviour is contrasted favourably with that of the Polish clergy.

Isolation holds few fears for paranoid Serbs

International condemnation of their attacks on Bosnia-Herzegovina has made Serbian leaders talk of conspiracy. Anne McElvoy writes from Belgrade

Serbia embarks on its main Orthodox Easter holiday this weekend in a sour, nervous and thoroughly disgruntled mood. It has unexpectedly found itself on the brink of international isolation after a series of condemnations of its involvement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, have been among those this week who have said that the continued intervention of the Yugoslav army and Serbian paramilitary units in Bosnia will lead to Serbia's exclusion from international bodies.

There is no immediate sign in Belgrade that the irregulars rampaging through the neighbouring, now independent republic will be called off. On the contrary, the Serbian leaders now seem to be prepared to accept isolation as the price of their actions.

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) has issued the first concrete threat of punitive action against Serbia, indicating that it may lose its seat unless it respects the autonomy of Bosnia-Herzegovina. At a meeting in Helsinki on Thursday, the CSCE urged Serbia to "discontinue those activities which, if continued, would form a clear, gross and uncorrected violation of the commitments of membership".

Meanwhile, the American State Department has used its strongest language yet, referring to an "extraordinarily tragic situation and a cause of grave concern for the USA". Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, has said that Serbia should not be acknowledged as the successor state to Yugoslavia and that it has, as such, no right to a seat at the United Nations.

Events follow a simple pattern: irregular forces advance on towns where Muslim forces are in control and take them by force. The JNA then moves in to mop up and its presence and weaponry ensure that there is little resistance.

In a more than usually blantant lie recorded by the television cameras, Mr Milosevic insisted that no paramilitary groups were active in Bosnia and that there was no movement of paramilitary groupings across the border from Serbia into Bosnia.

Diplomats were divided yesterday as to whether the combined strong-arm tactics of the CSCE and America could stop the progress of the Serbian war machine. Some saw the prospect of isolation as heralding the end of Mr Milosevic; others feared that he could gain fresh strength from being seen to stand alone in the face of universal enmity as his country slides into economic turmoil and domination by the army.

Mysterious market from the treasure of Siberia

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Fab 5's guide gets Pop hip to the hip-hop jive

Some forty years ago, young Americans picked up the argot of black jazz musicians and a generation of parents puzzled over such terms as "cool" and "bread" while their teenagers called them daddy and dug that crazy beat. Over the past few years, the process has repeated itself as the culture of rap, or hip-hop, music has emerged from the inner cities to be adopted first by the "downtown" fashion world and then whitebread America at large.

From Kansas City to the wilds of New England, parents are struggling to understand what young Johnny means when he says that his clothes are "wack" (not good) and that he needs money to buy something more "fly" (excellent) and do some "stylin' and profilin'" (cutting a dash) to have a chance in the "tenderon" (girls).

To help these parents and

wannabes brush up what Britons call street credibility, a New York publishing house has brought out the first rap primer: *Fresh Fly Flavour Words and Phrases of the Hip-Hop Generation*. Fab 5 Freddy Brathwaite, the author, suggests parents use his book to inject hipness into conversations with their young. "If your kid got a good report, you could say 'Your report is dope (great). The kid would be doing a triple-take," says Fab 5 Freddy.

Among other key words for conversing in hip-hop are crib (home), fresh (exquisite), flavour (tone or vibe of a situation), New Jack (a well-intentioned beginner) and crazy large (doing extremely crazy).

The New York appeals court has just served up an exciting new twist in the continuing saga of everyday life among the Trumps. Readers will recall that in

last week's episode the world was flocking to buy Ivana's ghost-written novel, *For Love Alone*, a steamy stew of sex and shopping which reads more like the tale of Donald and Ivana. Mr Trump cried foul.

The appeal court has cleared the way for his case by reversing an earlier ruling by the judge in the couple's divorce. This had annulled a "gag" clause in which Ivana's \$25 million (£14.2 million) settlement depended on her keeping quiet about the marriage. With his usual degree of reticence, Mr Trump has been gloating on the front pages of the tabloids. "An absolute 100 per cent f-ing victory," he said in *The New York Post*. "Hey, let's face it, any ex-wife of mine could write a book and have a guaranteed best-seller."

Mr Trump's lawyers are now seeking to halt publication, seize all the proceeds and

take back the \$25 million. At least the Trumps are keeping the New York papers in headlines. The city is mourning the loss of most of its favourite tabloid villains, those celebrities whose Christian names have adorned the front pages for the past decade. The Don (Gotti), is gone for good.

Mike (Tyson) is on leave for at least three years in Italy. Jim (Bakker) is also in prison and has been divorced by Tammy Faye. Willie (Kennedy) Smith got off and disappeared to New Mexico and this week Leona (Helmsley) departed to prison.

"We need new blood," said the *Daily News* in a mock advertisement for new big-mouthed celebrities. "A recession is a lousy breeding ground for crass, eccentric billionaires." The genre did

provide one item of good news yesterday: Harry

Helmsley, Leona's husband, decided to reverse his decision on Wednesday and switch on the floodlights that bathe the upper floors of his Empire State building at

night. He had earlier decreed they should be extinguished as a sign of mourning for the 18 months of "Queen" Leona's incarceration.

SEVEN former senior officials of Greek state companies were found guilty of corruption and jailed yesterday in connection with a bank scandal which helped bring down the former Socialist government.

The six men and a woman, including the former heads of the post office and the national carrier Olympic Airways, received jail sentences ranging from two to 13 years for depositing interest free in 1988 about \$80 million (£45.7 million) in the Bank of

Crete, where \$200 million is missing. Andreas Papandreou, the former Socialist prime minister, was acquitted in January of accepting bribes from George Kostolas, the bank's former owner. The scandal was a big factor in the Socialist election defeat in June 1989.

Kostolas has said the company heads deposited the state funds at his behest on the orders of the Socialist government. The money was later embezzled to support its election campaign. Kostolas was convicted of forgery in January and jailed for five years.

He will be tried later this year on charges of embezzlement.

Mr Papandreou, led his deputies out of parliament on Thursday, accusing the government of ordering the convictions. This was denied by

Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister.

In court yesterday, confusion broke out as Socialist deputies and supporters shouted "Shame! Shame!" as Ioannis Delyannis, chairman of the three-judge panel to read the sentences. Drowned out by the shouting, the judge left the room. The government condemned the protest as "a brutal provocation and direct affront of judicial order."

• Mayor elected: Leonidas Kouris, 43, was elected mayor of Athens, succeeding Antonis Trifunis who died of a stroke last week. Mr Kouris, an engineer and founding member of an engineers' union linked to the governing party, had served as a deputy mayor since 1987. (AFP)

Papandreou's officials jailed

FROM REUTER IN ATHENS

Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister.

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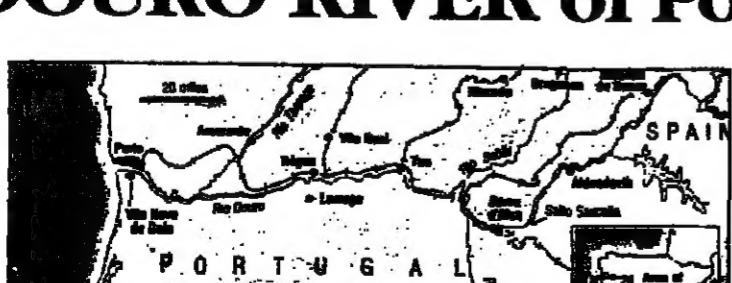
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Mysteries of market freeze the treasures of Siberia

Siberia's first venture into selling gold and other valuable items for itself was hardly a success but gave signs of hope. Mary Dejevsky writes from Yakutsk

IN THE snowy wastes of far northeastern Siberia, where they herd reindeer, hunt seals and the frost bites until May, two of the great mysteries of the former Soviet Union — gold and the market economy — are being brought together in the hope of producing a small miracle.

This week the local authorities staged their first experiment. It did not quite succeed: there was no gold, and there was almost no market. But there was a sense of adventure, a combination of artefacts and showmanship, and a determination to get it right next time.

The city of Yakutsk was mounting its first sale of "treasures". There were silver and precious stones, mammoth-tusk ornaments, and

one-third of the population are indigenous Yakuts who are not slow to accuse Russians of plundering their wealth.

This year Yakutia was granted two long-sought concessions. It can now dispose of a proportion of its gold production and it can sell 10 per cent of its diamond production.

For the first time, local specialists and traders must assess values. This week's sale was Yakutia's first excursion into establishing value. Led by the chairman of the city's raw materials and commodities exchange and leaders of the republic's gold company — formerly the local affiliate of the Soviet state gold and diamond organisation — Yakutia set out to see how much it might be worth.

They chose to hold an auction. But this produced meagre sales. The sellers' pricing rested largely on hearsay. That prices could depend on artistry, taste, rarity and availability of money was not something many sellers were ready to acknowledge.

The main disappointment for the organisers was the lack of gold and of foreign buyers. The foreigners had not come because their advertising was too late and too amateurish, they said frankly, and because the Russian foreign ministry had been difficult about providing visas.

A representative of the Yakut gold company said they could have sold their gold — nuggets wrought into ornaments — but they were not ready. Delivery of machinery ordered from Germany had been delayed by the collapse of the Soviet state monopoly foreign bank.

Next time the gold will be on sale. Advertisements will be on time, foreign buyers will get visas, and maybe Yakutia will start to feel the benefit of its "treasures".



jewellery; luxuriant furs; intricately carved wooden vessels.

Yakutia is one of the Russian Federation's constituent republics. It has a surface area the size of India with a population of 1.3 million. Yakutia also has almost all Russia's diamond deposits and a good proportion of its gold.

Where "treasures" are concerned, any institution in Russia must tiptoe around bureaucratic obstacles and prejudices. In Yakutia, "selling off the family silver" — and gold — raises as many emotions as anywhere, with two added complications. Sales of gold and precious metals have never been permitted outside Moscow, and

Blake took sweet road to Moscow

FROM REUTER

IN ZAFFERANA

George Blake was converted to communism by a Soviet agent, who gave him bread and chocolate in a North Korean prison camp in 1950. Lieutenant-General K.A. Grigoriev, a former KGB general, told the Moscow daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. "I have been convinced ever since that the way to a spy's heart is through his stomach," the agent, Colonel Nikolai Lovenko, was quoted as saying. Blake, who escaped from a London prison in 1966 after being convicted of spying for Moscow, had been working for British intelligence when he was captured by the North Koreans.

□

Archbishop Albert Decourtray, the head of France's Catholic Church, said France should try Paul Touvier, the intelligence chief of the Lyons militia under the Vichy regime, to come to terms with its past. A Paris court had ruled that there was insufficient evidence to try him for crimes against humanity.

□

Marion Barry, the former mayor of Washington, had his six-month prison sentence for cocaine possession affirmed by an appeal court.

□

Richard O'Brien is to make another sequel to the cult film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. He will be recreating the role of Riff Raff in *Revenge of the Old Queen*.

Russia changes its mind on name

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

THE Russian Congress of People's Deputies staggered through its eleventh day yesterday, with deputies amending one of their decisions (on the name of the country), standing by others (the constitutional ban on private sales of agricultural land), and giving every impression of being tired, cross and uncertain about their future.

In the morning, deputies eventually decided by a large majority to alter their decision of the previous day which made Russia officially "Russia". The new official name is the double-barrelled "Russian Federation — Russia", which has now been inscribed in the constitution, committing the "Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic" to history.

The decision to amend the previous day's adoption of "Russia" alone, followed vociferous objections on the part of some deputies from Russia's constituent republics and regions who had claimed



Wired up: deputies of the Russian congress listening to the translation of President Yeltsin's proposal to change the country's name from Russia, agreed the day before, to Russian Federation — Russia

that "Russia" smacked of chauvinism. But the proposed compromise, which had apparently taken much of the night to draft and was attributed to President Yel-

tsin, initially found no favour either and was voted down. After an hour's unscheduled adjournment to allow for an explanatory meeting, and a rhetorical tour de force from

Dmitri Volkogonov, Mr Yeltsin's respected adviser on military affairs, the Yeltsin proposal was adopted in its entirety, and with more votes and as much elation as the

fickle deputies had shown the previous day in their vote for "Russia". Mr Yeltsin's amendment not only introduced the "Russian Federation — Russia" formulation, but also

amended article 1 of the Russian constitution to emphasise several times over the federal character of the country. Although the reversal of the previous day's vote was said to be a concession to Russia's constituent republics, voting figures issued by the congress's analysis team, however, showed that more than 80 per cent of deputies from these republics and autonomous regions had voted happily for "Russia" the first time around.

Attempts by Yuri Yarov, the acting chairman, to force a return to the issue of Russia's name, produced one of the congress's immortal moments. Accused by a deputy of manipulating the gathering, he spread out his arms and asked: "Do you really think that you can be manipulated?" "Yes," the deputies roared in chorus.

• Second thoughts: Leaders of the self-styled republic of Chechnya in the northern Caucasus, which declared independence from Russia last autumn, appear to be having second thoughts. Dzhokhar Dudayev, the republic's leader, whose regime survived an armed challenge last month, is reported to have issued a televised appeal for a joint defence system with Russia and a "single economic, cultural and information zone". No reason was given for the Chechen leader's apparent change of heart.

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Clifford Longley

Biblical truths are of their own particular kind

Must the Easter message of Christ's Resurrection be believed as a physical, historical, scientific fact? Can it be accepted as just an optimistic metaphor, or as something else again? Or such uncertainties as these have generated of Doubting Thomases pulled back from Christianity.

As we see from the recurrent debate surrounding the views of the Bishop of Durham — which will be stoked tomorrow evening by the vicars interviewed for BBC's *Heart of the Matter* — the official, orthodox view has never been made sufficiently clear. If the bishop is "wrong", then what is supposed to be "right"? Do those who repudiate the bishop's non-literal understanding of the Resurrection believe in the creation of the world in six days? If they regard Genesis as mythical because it is contrary to science, why is that not also a good reason for rejecting the Resurrection — which sounds, to say the least, scientifically improbable?

A large proportion of those in church tomorrow will know such difficulties as these, and a larger number will stay away because of them. They have had no help from intermining scraps between conservative evangelicals and theological liberals. The popular perception of that contest portrays it as if "what actually happened" is the only point worth discussing — was the tomb empty or not? — whereas the real battle is more political than theological. It is about which way of reading the Bible (literal or literal), and therefore which ecclesiastical power bloc should hold sway in the Church of England.

People do not want to be made to feel silly for their credulity, nor guilty for lack of faith.

Theological students and seminarians of all persuasions learnt in their classes what they manage to conceal once they get to their parishes: that understanding the Bible is a delicate exercise in textual interpretation, known as exegesis or hermeneutics. It is a careful discipline, with rules, and is far from a reduction of the Bible to the simple issue of "what actually happened".

Scripture is a kind of history, but it is not military or political history. It is what is called "salvation history". In so far as it contains truths, they are not military or political truths, but an autonomous realm of truth called religious truth. This was once supposed to overrule all other realms of truth, catastrophically even scientific truth, but was a political power-play rather than a serious philosophical argument. More cautious church scholars always avoided such sweeping claims. They saw that religion and science must not conflict but must co-exist.

The authors of scripture were divinely inspired, the church traditionally insisted, and so were protected against religious error. It became clear, as scientific knowledge expanded, that divine inspiration had not saved the authors from historical mistakes or scientific error. But if religious truth is not scientific truth, what sort of truth is it? An age too much in awe of science (compounded by scientific ignorance) may too easily reject any idea of truth except the scientific kind.

Clearly, religious truth is a kind which expects a personal response, not an arid intellectual exercise. It cannot, therefore, be approached neutrally. Like listening to music, reading poetry or viewing art, the disposition of the person responding alters the effect. It has therefore little to do with "objective fact" (although if there were no such place as Jerusalem and no such historical person as Jesus of Nazareth, there could be no "purely religious" truth in the New Testament).

There can be no "proof" of the truth of a religious idea by the criteria of science. But hermeneutics requires a grasp of the world-view of the scriptural authors, above all some knowledge of what errors they are likely to have committed because of who they were and when they lived. If they thought miracles were everyday events, for example, they might be persuaded an event was miraculous when a more sceptical generation would not. Divine inspiration is no guarantee against jumping to wrong conclusions.

On the other hand, if religious ideas are accepted as belonging to a valid realm of truth of their own, they can sometimes be used to illuminate questions of hard scientific or historical fact — such as whether Jesus actually existed, even whether His tomb was empty. But hermeneutics insists the emphasis must remain on that aspect of the matter which is truly religious. In responding to Easter as an event in salvation history, attention must move from the empty tomb to the Resurrection, the lesser matter to the greater, not the other way round.

A Canaletto has been saved from export but more masterpieces could be lost, says Richard Cork

Art sales of the century

In the halcyon year of 1865, a Treasury minister advised the National Gallery to buy paintings from abroad only, for as regards the finer works of art in this country, it may be assumed that although they may change hands, they will not leave our shores". Since those confident words were written, the departure rate has escalated apparently inexorably. As the recession continues to force superlative paintings on to the market, so anxiety grows about Britain's ability to keep even a fraction of them.

After Herculean efforts by a clutch of charitable bodies, Holbein's enchanting portrait of *A Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling* has been secured by the National Gallery. But the strain of meeting the multimillion-pound asking price has severely depleted the fundraisers' resources. The Tate Gallery, struggling with a derisory annual purchase grant of £1,815,000, stood no chance of buying the £10,250,000 Canaletto which Andrew Lloyd Webber secured at Christie's this week. The government has frozen the Tate's acquisition funding for the past six years, after reducing

it from £2,041,000 in 1983-4. So unless Mr Lloyd Webber puts his prize on long-term loan at Millbank, the gallery is unlikely ever to represent Canaletto's London period at its finest. The prospects look grimmer still when we consider what might come on the market soon. Another Holbein, this time an incisive portrait of Erasmus, is still owned by the Earl of Radnor. The painting's quality, combined with the significance of the sitter, would ensure a price far higher than even the National Gallery's unknown lady has just commanded.

Or how would the nation's coffers cope if the Duke of Northumberland decided to sell his newly-authenticated Raphael, the *Madonna with the Pinks*? At present, this exquisite little painting is on loan to the Sainsbury Wing, but the National Gallery would be out of the running if it were placed on the market. The £10 million price of the Holbein *Lady* is payable over

three years, an arrangement which ties up the National Gallery's annual £2,750,000 purchase grant (frozen since 1985) throughout that period. A substantial contribution has also come from the Getty Foundation, a £50 million endowment fund established by J. Paul Getty Jr to help secure masterpieces for the nation. But since the capital of that great gift is never touched, its help in buying the Raphael would be limited indeed.

Or how would the nation's coffers cope if the Duke of Northumberland decided to sell his newly-authenticated Raphael, the *Madonna with the Pinks*? At present, this exquisite little painting is on loan to the Sainsbury Wing, but the National Gallery would be out of the running if it were placed on the market. The £10 million price of the Holbein *Lady* is payable over

ing, the *Taddei Tondo*. Now installed in Sir Norman Foster's brilliantly translucent entrance to the Sackler Galleries, the sculpture might not remain there if the Academy ever fell foul of a dire financial crisis. After all, the RA was obliged to sell its Leonardo cartoon in 1962, and fundraising even on a hitherto unguessed at scale might not prevent the Michelangelo from leaving the country.

The most calamitous departure of all, though, would be the Duke of Sutherland's collection. On loan to the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh for as long as anyone can remember, this outstanding array of paintings contains some of the crowning achieve-

ments in European art. Poussin's austere yet eloquent series of canvases, the *Sacraments*, now enjoy a room of their own at Edinburgh.

But the Raphaels, including the dynamically composed *Bridgewater Madonna*, are more important still. And the cream of the collection is undoubtedly the group of Titians, which spans the range of his long development, from the early *Three Ages of Man* to the late, marvellously unbridled canvases painted for Philip II of Spain: *Diana and Actaeon* and *Diana and Callisto*, both of which are at the very summit of Titian's prolific output.

No rational figure could be put on the Sutherland collection if it were consigned to the sale rooms. The National Gallery of Scotland would look denuded without it, and the purchase of these paintings by a foreign museum or collector would constitute the gravest loss of all. The present Duke is unlikely to sell

Getting back to the land

Public access to the countryside is still much too limited, argues Marion Shoard

Next weekend, walkers all over Britain will be gathering to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the mass trespass over a grouse moor at Kinder Scout in Derbyshire. It culminated in a pitched battle between ramblers and gamekeepers, with injuries, arrests and eventual jail sentences. The incident sparked off further confrontations between ramblers and private landowners during that summer, after which public opinion appeared to concede the justice of the ramblers' cause.

The mood of next weekend's celebrations will not be simply nostalgic, however. Rather participants will be looking to history for lessons in tactics.

Over the past 18 months, a spate of mass trespasses has shamed the rural calm. On September 29 more than 500 men, women and children set off in biting wind and rain to walk across Thurstone Moor in Yorkshire. This great moorland block, whose wild, open spaces contrast with the neat fields below, is home to sheep and snipe, meadow pipits, golden plover and red grouse. But the general public has no right to roam freely here.

At the other end of the country, a smaller trespass ended in violent confrontation reminiscent of 1932. Penarrow and Colquitt Woods, north of Bodmin are inhabited by buzzards and, in spring, speckled with primroses, celandines and yellow archangel. They have traditionally seen dozens of walkers every Sunday — until last summer when gates, barbed wire and notices forbidding

access went up. Both events, together with 40 protest walks, took place on the Ramblers' Association's "Forbidden Britain Day", which is to become an annual fixture.

Ramblers are baving to re-fight their grandparents' battles because, despite the Kinder Scout victory, the countryside is hardly less impenetrable to walkers than it was before the war, and in some ways it is even more so.

Kinder Scout itself has been opened to walkers, thanks to an access agreement negotiated with the landowner by the Peak Park Planning Board. Access agreements were introduced under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in direct response to the protests of the 1930s. However, four decades later they cover only 0.2 per cent of the countryside.

Few rural local authorities have chosen to make any real use of the access agreement provisions. Councils, which are often dominated by landowners themselves, have been reluctant to broach the delicate subject of access for the public with their most powerful constituents. Provisions in the 1949 Act for compulsory access orders where agreement with landowners cannot be reached have hardly been used at all. Here, councils are deterred not only by the prospect of taking on the landowners, but by the requirement that they must pay compensation out of their ever harder-pressed budgets.

While little new land has been opened to the public, opportunities for walkers which existed in the 1930s except where they are a means of generating cash. Some are enclosing open land so that they can charge entry fees to walkers to compensate for the declining profitability of agriculture. Such arrangements already exist along the West Lyn valley near Lynmouth, at Ingleside Palls and Clapham Beck in the Yorkshire Dales, at

ploughed up most of this hitherto marginal land, and sometimes even public footpaths as well.

On uplands the spread of conifer forests has also curtailed opportunities for walking. More recently, the privatisation of land formerly belonging to public bodies like the Forestry Commission or local authorities has often resulted in the withdrawal of long-standing *de facto* access.

Private landowners seem no more willing to tolerate walkers than their predecessors were in the 1930s, except where they are a means of generating cash. Some are enclosing open land so that they can charge entry fees to walkers to compensate for the declining profitability of agriculture. Such arrangements already exist along the West Lyn valley near Lynmouth, at Ingleside Palls and Clapham Beck in the Yorkshire Dales, at

the Swallow Falls in Snowdonia, at High Force in Teesdale and in the Doone Valley in Exmoor. The idea that access is something for which the public should pay is being further boosted by the Countryside Commission's countryside stewardship and sea-side premium schemes which pay farmers for permitting access.

The Kinder Scout trespassers were desperate for a brief break from the grim, slum-hit towns they lived in. They found themselves shut out of the countryside. Today's walkers are less materially deprived, but with the environment increasingly considered a communal resource, the idea of being expected to pay to walk in the countryside is as unacceptable to many as being excluded from it altogether. Both generations of ramblers follow in British tradition of rural protest rooted in the idea that — in the words of the "Diggers" of the 1640s — "the poorest man has as just a right to the land as the richest."

This is not such a peculiar notion. Elsewhere and at other times, the right to own land has not been seen as synonymous with the right to exclude others from it. In Sweden, *Allmänsrätt* gives every citizen the right to walk anywhere in the countryside where this is practicable. Germans enjoy the right to walk anywhere in their country's forests and most rough-land, and the Swiss have the right to go anywhere in their woods and mountains. It is time we caught up. A mass trespass ought to be as at place in the 1990s as a hunger march. Today we do not allow people to go hungry, but neither should we be starved of the refreshment that only the freedom of the countryside can provide.

Marion Shoard is the author of *This Land is Our Land* (Grafton, 1987).

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Well, that's over then, and we can all get back to normal life. Spring has arrived, with more cowslips than have been seen for years, and the checkered snake's head fritillaries are turning Magdalen College meadow in Oxford purple. Venice still floats above the Adriatic, and Rembrandt is in strength at the National Gallery.

There must be better ways of managing the government of a country than the frantic non-sense that has been going on for 18 months. It was an electronic election run by media and sound-bite, opinion polls and spin-doctors. More billions of words were uttered into the air than in any previous election, and not one of them is worth remembering. No great speeches were made. Not even many good speeches were made.

The two most memorable symbols of the election were Jennifer's ear and John's soapbox, both of them television stunts. All the parties spent most of their energies trying to prove that the other parties were unfit to govern, and all of them generally succeeded, and were on the whole right. The modern witchdoctors of the public opinion polls satisfactorily demonstrated the obvious truth that if you go around asking impertinent questions you are likely to get a lot of inexact answers. Their predecessors who predicted what was going to happen by inspecting the guts of slaughtered animals had a better record, allowing for a 3 per

cent margin of error either way, and the occasional rogue victim that ran amok.

The government was the choice of only about four out of every ten who voted. In an autocracy, one person has his way; in an aristocracy, the elite few have their way; in a democracy no one has absolutely his own way. That is democracy for you. Like all human institutions, it is worthy of improvement.

And yet, in its imperfect human way, the late general election was a triumph for democracy. It may be an absurd way to run a country, but it is better than the other systems that have been tried for almost all history in all countries. The revolutionary notion that all citizens should have a voice in their government was invented in Athens exactly 25 centuries ago, in 508 BC. They got rid of the élite structures of their country, and introduced the new political entity of the demos, the people. This is the root name of democracy: rule by the people.

Never mind a man's class or money or education. If he was a citizen, he had far more political rights than a voter has in Britain, becoming a Member of Parliament, and, with luck in the ballot, a minister and a High Court judge.

The downside of this first democracy was that more than three-quarters of the population were the silent majority, with no voice on anything that affected their lives. Adult male citizens, the rule, okay? But women, slaves, resident aliens, and other disen-

Saatchi's faction guaranteed?

CRITICS of the Tory election campaign — who included Mrs Thatcher, Cecil Parkinson and Norman Tebbit — will be dismayed to learn that a decision has already been taken at the highest level to retain Saatchi & Saatchi as the party's advertising agency.

Saatchi's, which was paid an estimated £1 million by the Tories for their part in the £20 million campaign, has already started work on a party political broadcast for next month's local elections. The agency, which is advising on strategy, is expected to exploit the role of the trade unions in the Labour leadership contest.

News of the Saatchi coup will surprise those who had heard that relations between Central Office and the Saatchi camp were strained during the weeks before polling. The apparent endorsement of the agency, which has been retained on an informal basis for the next four years, will bolster morale at the troubled company. Any decision about the next general election, however, is likely to hinge on Saatchi's performance during the 1994 European elections.

The retention of Saatchi's, coupled with Chris Patten's insistence that staff be paid a victory bonus, has increased suspicion that the party high command will not, after all, conduct a thoroughgoing review of the campaign. Next week each department at Central Office will start work on a critique of the election operation.

"It would be a disaster to assume that all is well because we won," says one employee who was driven to despair by the campaign. "Painful decisions should be taken now."

The physician who was the direct cause of Rasputin's disastrous tenure at the imperial court.

Fifty-four imperial eggs were produced by Fabergé, of which 47 are known to survive. In 1985, the last one to come up for sale — *The Cuckoo Egg* of 1900 — was bought for \$1.76 million by Malcolm Forbes, taking his collection to 11, one more than the Kremlin. Sotheby's has informed the Russian administration of the next sale, but it seems likely that Boris Yeltsin has better uses for the new country's national budget.

The idea of marketing shows this way was dreamed up nine years ago by Jeanne Cook, of Jeanne Cook Marketing, when she was promoting *Run for Your Wife*, a play which features a London cabby.

"You often meet cabbies and their wives at the theatre," says one taxi-driver. "Trouble is if they're giving free tickets it's often because the show's no good."

• Rather than calling in reinforcements on their field telephones, many of the British tank commanders in the Gulf made use of special issue Ministry of Defence credit cards. So keen was competition among the allies to be first to the front that the officers were ordering special navigational equipment for their tanks from local dealers — and putting it on the MoD budget, much to the annoyance of their American colleagues, who did not have the benefit of such a service. A ministry official admitted yesterday that cards had been issued to senior officers serving in the Gulf, but said: "I cannot say for certain whether they were used for buying navigational aids — I suppose it is possible."

Please try later

JEREMY ISAACS has admitted defeat. A year ago, after the head of the Royal Opera House press office, Ewan Balfour, was made redundant because of a cash squeeze, Isaacs said he intended to deal with important press matters himself. But journalists following late night stories who knew Isaacs' ex-directory phone number found him reluctant to answer midnight calls. Now the opera house, which is expected to announce a £2 million deficit shortly, is advertising for a head of public affairs and marketing.

1. P. J. O'Rourke, a prominent professor of literature, writes at the Australian Journal of University, Canberra, on April 13 aged 60. He died in London on March 4, 1993.

2. A. P. Herbert, a perceptive professor of law, died in his nineties at the University of Exeter, Devon. He was a novelist, historian and a member of the House of Lords. He died on March 11, 1993.

3. Sir John Betjeman, a poet and a former MP, died in London on March 10, 1992.

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DIARY

OBITUARIES

SAMUEL MAGNUS

Samuel Woolf Magnus, QC, lawyer who practised in Britain and Africa, and former member of the Zambian parliament, has died aged 81. He was born in Ekaterinoslav (now Dniproptrovsk), Ukraine, on September 30, 1910.

In ADDITION to writing a successful series of legal guides on British government legislation, Samuel Magnus went on to become a member of parliament both in pre-independence Northern Rhodesia and post-independent Zambia where he also served as Justice of Appeal in the Court of Appeal in 1971. On his return to Britain he was for six years from 1977 a member of the Foreign Compensation Commission.

Samuel Woolf Magnus was born three months after the death of his father. His widowed mother brought him from Russia to England at the end of 1910 to live with his uncle. Some time later she remarried and settled in the East End of London. Magnus was educated locally, eventually graduating from University College, London, with a BA in Semitics and the Jewish Minister's diploma from Jews College.

Magnus was an Orthodox Jew and in his youth was an active Zionist, becoming a founding member of the Federation of Zionist Youth. Instead of pursuing a career in the ministry, he turned to the law. After being called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1937 he practised in London until 1959. During this time he saw service during the second world war in the RAOC in Egypt and Palestine. He was demobilised in 1946 and returned to his practice at the Bar.

In the previous year he



C. P. Fitzgerald, emeritus professor of Far Eastern history at the Australian National University, Canberra, died on April 13 aged 90. He was born in Britain on March 5, 1902.

PATRICK Fitzgerald was a perceptive interpreter of Chinese history and culture at a time when very little academic expertise or educated taste in Britain had much understanding of either. During the 1930s he established himself among the front rank of historians of China and was recognized to be among the very few western sinologists whose work was of first-rate importance to those interested in the momentous developments taking place in that land. For almost 50 years a succession of books set forth the distinctive character of Chinese civilisation and the continuity of the country's past and present.

Fitzgerald's classical Chinese was, like that of his predecessor Arthur Waley, self-taught, but unlike Waley, who never went to China,

Fitzgerald, who was educated at Clifton College, went there as a young man in 1923 to start a commercial career. His intellectual interests and skills soon drew him into scholarship about the country in which he lived almost until the second world war, by which time he had mastered the language, read much of the classical histories and travelled well beyond the beaten tracks of China. He had also equipped himself with a specialised study of anthropology.

He first established a reputation in 1933 with *Son of Heaven*, a biography of Li Shih-min, founder of the Tang dynasty. But the book that brought his name before a much wider public in 1935 was *China: A Short Cultural History*, which soon became a standard work, admired for its literary distinction as well as its scholarship. It ran through several revised editions for over 30 years.

A spell in south west China took him into the highlands of Yunnan province, and a fascinating anthropological survey of the non-Chinese Min Chia people was the result. His sinological skills were put to use in wartime intelligence and he was, for four years from 1946, the British Council representative in Peking. It was then that Sir Douglas Copland, who had been Australia's ambassador in China, invited him to Canberra to help in the post-war expansion of Chinese studies in Australia.

Fitzgerald's interest in the Tang dynasty produced another biography in 1956, *The Empress Wu*, an objective study of a rare woman ruler regarded as a bad thing in the Chinese official histories. But having been in Peking when it was taken over by communist forces early in 1949, and aware, as he was, that the Chinese people were unsupervised in the length and relevance of their history and of their awareness of it as the common inheritance of the whole educated class, Fitzgerald turned to interpreting current events against the background of that past.

The Birth of Communist China,

ising lip-service to "chairperson" is debatable; what is certain is that such linguistic changes are happening, and are likely to become the norm. Whereas the phrase "God become Man" was once capable of expressing Christ's taking on of total humanity within his physical maleness, that meaning may soon be lost. To substitute "human" for man may sound clumsy but in fact corresponds better to the Greek *anthropos* of the New Testament, which is more inclusive than *aner* meaning a male.

On the other hand, "God" is fully human. He had inevitably to be born either man or woman. That did not eclipse His taking on of total humanity but it does mean that it is difficult for us to hold the two concepts in balance, just as it is difficult to keep in mind that He was not a demi-god but both completely human and completely divine.

But it is vital that we do so, for our understanding of Christianity and also of the role of men and women in the world. It was as a male — and not as a sissy but as a courageous male in his prime — that Christ talked of gathering the citizens of Jerusalem like a hen her chicks and preached so-called "feminine" virtues of meekness and purity of heart. On the other hand, He blessed

the relationship of prayer and worship possible. And people are not androgynous, but either male or female a genderless, asexual creature is not a normal human being. Therefore to be seen in anthropomorphic terms God must be labelled by gender. "He, she, it and/or all three" does not invoke the warm response which faith in the Living God demands.

The same applies to Christ. To be fully human He had inevitably to be born either man or woman. That did not eclipse His taking on of total humanity but it does mean that it is difficult for us to hold the two concepts in balance, just as it is difficult to keep in mind that He was not a demi-god but both completely human and completely divine.

In the experience of the Holy

SAMMY PRICE

Sammy Price, jazz pianist and band-leader, died in New York on April 14 aged 83. He was born in Honey Grove, Texas, on October 6, 1908.

SAMMY Price was one of the last of the generation of jazz pianists that included Art Tatum and Teddy Wilson. His career spanned more than six decades and he was fortunate enough to be present during the pioneering years of jazz in Kansas City, Chicago and, finally, New York where he played a central role in the small group jazz of the swing era. He based his piano style on the blues and boogie woogie he heard as a boy in Texas, and which he learned at first hand from players like Cow Cow Davenport and Jesse Crump. As a dancer with Alphonso Trent's Orchestra, and later as a fledgling pianist on the TORA black vaudeville circuit, Price obtained a solid grounding in showmanship, and this permeated all his work as pianist and bandleader. He developed a talent for assembling studio recording groups and turning mediocre performances by blues and gospel singers into artistic gems, and he adopted the persona of a confident hustler, in cohorts with record companies and management, who could always find work as a pianist even in times of economic depression.

Price also turned his organisational talents to politics, campaigning in Harlem for Hubert Humphrey and Lyndon Johnson, as well as doing community work for the New York Police Department, who presented him with an honorary badge of office. He cared passionately about the rights and education of young black people and in his later years, he ran jazz education courses (including a year as artist in residence at Harvard in 1965) to try to convey much of his musical experience to a new generation.

Price's musical career nearly failed to start when Professor Cobb of Waco, Texas, to whom he was first sent for corner lessons, pronounced him a hopeless. Undeterred, he began to teach himself the piano, and when he finally took lessons, hints of a formidable talent emerged when he memorised entire pieces played by his teacher, Portia Pittman. After going on the road with Trent's orchestra, he worked in the Dallas area, making his first records there in 1929 with his Four Quarters.

Price travelled on the theatre circuit, which took him to Kansas City, where he stayed until 1932, getting married (briefly) before travelling on to Chicago and later Detroit. In 1937, he went to New York, and quickly established a friendship with the Decca record producer Mayo Williams. Their first collaboration, in May 1938, had Price backing his former mentor Cow Cow Davenport, whose arthritis prevented him from playing piano himself. This marked the first of a string of recordings in which Price acted as musical director for Williams, bringing together outstanding soloists such as Henry "Red" Allen, Buster Bailey, Frankie Newton and Benny Carter to back Decca's stable



of blues and gospel singers. In his autobiography *What Do They Want?* (published in 1989), Price is dismissive of the musical talents of some of the singers he played for. In the case of Sister Rosetta Tharpe he claimed "I'd tell her how to move her capo and get the guitar in the right key." His efforts were successful, and Price earned well from these sessions, but used the proceeds to indulge a lifelong passion for gambling. In 1945, he recorded a string of boogie woogie solos for the King Jazz label, run by clarinettist Mezz Mezzrow. In them, he preserved much of the aural tradition of his youth, recreating the playing of Davenport and Crump. In more recent times, Price would delight in demonstrating these archaic blues piano styles, but his own playing went far beyond mere boogie woogie, as he showed in his sequences of recorded duets with trumpeter Doc Cheatham, for whom Price was a perfect, sensitive and harmonically sophisticated accompanist. He formed an equally satisfying musical partnership with "Red" Allen, with whom he worked at the Metropole in New York for much of the 1950s. He was a pioneer of jazz festivals, and organised the Philadelphia Jazz Festival Society in 1946.

Price toured Europe often, in a series of visits which began with Mezz Mezzrow's band at the 1948 Nice Jazz Festival. In the mid-1950s he returned with his own Bluesians (featuring Emmett Berry and Herb Hall) and he recorded in France many times, notably with Sidney Bechet, and later Doc Cheatham. Some of the recordings that Price felt to be his finest work were made in Europe, notably his version of *In the Evening with clarinetist Sandy Brown*, and the sublime *I Cover the Waterfront* with Cheatham.

Price was a larger than life character, yet his hustler's charm sometimes antagonised those close to him. When he got his come-uppance (as when trying to queue jump a dockside customs check by showing his police badge, which led to his being elaborately searched in front of the busload of fellow musicians he had tried to overtake) he was quick to see the joke, if grouchy at first. Many younger musicians owe their careers to his encouragement, and many young offenders owe their rehabilitation in society to the unseen side of his work. Although he never lost his Texas roots, Price became a part of Harlem's greatest characters, and he worked hard both in and out of music to make it a better place in which to live.

C. P. FITZGERALD

Fitzgerald, who was educated at Clifton College, went there as a young man in 1923 to start a commercial career. His sinological skills were put to use in wartime intelligence and he was, for four years from 1946, the British Council representative in Peking. It was then that Sir Douglas Copland, who had been Australia's ambassador in China, invited him to Canberra to help in the post-war expansion of Chinese studies in Australia.

Fitzgerald's interest in the Tang dynasty produced another biography in 1956, *The Empress Wu*, an objective study of a rare woman ruler regarded as a bad thing in the Chinese official histories. But having been in Peking when it was taken over by communist forces early in 1949, and aware, as he was, that the Chinese people were unsupervised in the length and relevance of their history and of their awareness of it as the common inheritance of the whole educated class, Fitzgerald turned to interpreting current events against the background of that past.

The Birth of Communist China,

Revolution in China and later essays were all written in the full consciousness that an authoritarian political system inspired by a state doctrine governed the world's largest population. With evident sympathy for the new regime, Fitzgerald nevertheless saw it not quite as the "new" China on which its leader Mao so strongly insisted. Equally, *The Chinese View of their Place in the World*, the first of a series of essays published by Chatham House in 1964, was a reminder of how unfamiliarity with any international system but the one of which they had been the centre for nearly two thousand years had conditioned Chinese thinking.

No less widely read in European history, and constantly drawing parallels and contrasts in his writing on China, Fitzgerald could also turn aside to such a fascinating sideline as the origin of the chair in China. *Barbarian Beds* (1965). In *The Southern Expansion of the Chinese People* (1972) he was able to explain the origins of the Chinese people's

distinctive view of South-East Asia. A fluent and cultivated style made Patrick Fitzgerald a brilliant expositor for the general reader. He was always aware of the broader aspects of his subject, summing up Chinese society or the nature of religion in China in telling phrases.

He was professor of Far Eastern history at the Australian National University from 1953 to 1967 and then visiting fellow at the university's department of international affairs, 1968-69.

He continued writing long after retirement from his Canberra chair. A history of East Asia, a study of the overseas Chinese, an essay on Mao Tse-tung and the historical sections of *China's Three Thousand Years*, published by The Times in connection with the Chinese Exhibition of 1973, were among many other contributions that continued up to his eightieth year.

He married, in 1941, Pamela Knolys, known as Sarah; she died in 1980. There were three daughters of the marriage.

C. V. WOOD

C. V. Wood Jr. who supervised the transport of London Bridge to its new home in Arizona, and was largely responsible for the creation of the first Disneyland theme park, died in Houston, Texas, on March 16 aged 71. He was born in Woods County, Oklahoma.

NO ONE could accuse C. V. Wood of being small. When the first Disneyland opened under his supervision in California, in 1954, the world had seen nothing quite like it. With its huge scale, innovative rides, and almost excessive respectability, it was a far cry from the raucous frenzy of the traditional amusement park.

Disneyland, with its nostalgic population of cartoon characters, fitted the American notion of "family entertainment." Together with its twin in Florida it soon became, and remains a mecca for American families on holiday, while Euro Disney is attempting to create the same ambience in France.

Wood's pioneering work, as vice-president and general manager under the late Walt Disney provided much of the inspiration for the parks. After supervising selection and purchase of the land for the world famous attraction he stayed on as managing director for the first year of operation, establishing many of the policies that have given the Disney theme parks their distinctive qualities.

But his most spectacular achievement was, in 1968, the removal, transportation and reconstruction of London Bridge in Arizona, half-way around the globe. The bridge, built in 1831, had begun to subside under the weight of modern traffic, and the City of London Corporation must have been overjoyed to find a buyer when they decided to replace it with a new one. To sell it to America where the selling of the Brooklyn Bridge is the archetypal confidence trick was a delicious twist.

Some said Wood had "bought a bridge he didn't need for a river he didn't have" and there were those at the time who thought that Wood's employers, the McCullough Oil Company, had been conned into believing that they had really bought the more spectacular Tower Bridge. But Wood knew what he was doing. He dug a channel from Lake Havasu, on the California

APPRECIATION

William Paling

THE death of William Paling (obituary April 15) recalls the incident in the Commons when he (or maybe his older brother Walter) called Churchill "You dirty dog".

The House froze. The giant rose, scowling, snarling, lips quivering. "Dirty dog" it may be. But you know what dirty dogs do to palings."

The House roared.

John F. M. Smallwood, CBE

The House froze. The giant rose, scowling, snarling, lips quivering. "Dirty dog" it may be. But you know what dirty dogs do to palings."

The House roared.

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been entrusted by the town authorities, hang in Holy Trinity Church. In an instant the flags presented by 53 different nations flew out all down the street, at the top of their tall poles. The National Anthem was played and salutes given by several hundred of boys belonging to the Boy Scouts and the Church Lads' Brigade, who were present in full force with their drum and bugle band. The opening scene of the Festival had been admirably organized by Dr Green, the secretary of the Shakespeare Society and not a single flag refused to do the duty which Stratford expected of them all.

As many of the spectators as could find sitting or standing room then crowded into the Town Hall at the Mayor's invitation, and the speeches were delivered by the Chinese Ambassador, the Mexican and Norwegian Ministers and Mr Kirkpatrick, the Agent-General for South Australia. The company of speakers was not large, but between them they represented a rather considerable fraction of the total number of the globe's present inhabitants. And they all agreed in telling the people of Stratford that Shakespeare no longer belonged to them or to England, but was the property of the whole world.

The Chinese Ambassador declared that he was a "houseword" in Asia as well as in Europe, and was read by millions of his fellow-countrymen. The Mexican Minister compared him to a universal deity which has covered the face of the earth.

In the town the main streets were gay with wreaths and flittering pennants and all day long in the pleasant gardens of the Memorial Theatre, on the river and in the meadows on its further bank, crowds of people made holiday in the open air. The theatre, the outward and visible sign of what Stratford has already done in the way of carrying out its ideals, was packed from floor to ceiling and when the curtain rose this afternoon there was not an empty seat in the house.

Gillian Crow

Understanding a God who exists beyond gender

The New Testament speaks unequivocally of Jesus Christ as a male, circumcised, the son of Mary, the Son of God. In both His humanity and His divinity He is masculine. It also speaks of God the Father in the Lord's Prayer and elsewhere in the Gospels. At a time when women are shaking off the fetters of male domination to seek a just place in human society, what are they to think of the Biblical portrayal of a masculine God in relation to their place in the Church?

Some have found their answer in paraphrasing the text, referring to God in the wider term of "parent". It yet paraphrase is dangerous. It opens the door to a common temptation: to improvise upon the original according to the wishful thinking of the interpreter. Wilful manipulation and heresy may then follow. "Our Mother" or a female figure or the crucifix is not the God of recognisable Christianity.

Yet language is important. Until recently the use of the word "man" for person, whether male or female, was an acceptable convention. Whether it is preferable to have a

relationship of prayer and worship possible. And people are not androgynous, but either male or female a genderless, asexual creature is not a normal human being. Therefore to be seen in anthropomorphic terms God must be labelled by gender. "He, she, it and/or all three" does not invoke the warm response which faith in the Living God demands.

The same applies to Christ. To be fully human He had inevitably to be born either man or woman. That did not eclipse His taking on of total humanity but it does mean that it is difficult for us to hold the two concepts in balance, just as it is difficult to keep in mind that He was not a demi-god but both completely human and completely divine.

Transcending in the Spirit their physical limitations, able to see beyond the enslaved reasoning of the secular world to ever bigger concepts of humanity. In other words in the understanding of gender and of the role of men and women the Church was meant to lead.

Instead it finds itself being led — dragged — by the world towards a secular framework of new male-female roles. Questions about the priesthood follow the admission of women to other professions: the equality of the sexes is seen as a novelty in the very place where it should have first arisen.

The unwritten cry of the New Testament is "bigger, greater, deeper" concerning both God and creation. No language will ever express the inexhaustible nature of the Almighty nor the divine vision for humanity. Let us keep our God-given word pictures of Father and Son, which convey a small part of the Truth; but only if we see beyond them with the God-given eyes of the Spirit.

Gillian Crow is a writer and a member of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Woman held in hunt for Derby killers

BY LIN JENKINS

DETECTIVES hunting the killers of an army recruiting sergeant, Michael Newman, in Derby were yesterday holding a woman under the Prevention of Terrorism Act as they followed up many calls from the public about three men they want to question.

A watch was kept on all ports and airports for three men named by police as Joseph Magee, 26, Declan Duffy, 19, known as "Wacko" and Anthony Forman, 22,

known as "Fanta". In the Channel Islands police placed a Guernsey hotel under surveillance after a tip-off and five Irish women staff were questioned.

Supi Richard Smith, on the island, said he was satisfied that Mr Duffy and Mr Magee were not on Guernsey. There was no suggestion that the third man had been there. He said 25 policemen, some armed, went to Le Chene hotel yesterday morning after they were told that the two men were staying there with one of the women, said to be Mr Magee's girlfriend.

Police said that the call could have been intended to divert attention from elsewhere. Four of the women have been released and one is still being questioned. Two detectives from Derbyshire are in Guernsey helping local police.

Sergeant Newman died on Tuesday after being shot the day before. The Irish National Liberation Army admitted the killing.

Don Dovaston, assistant chief constable of Derbyshire, said that operations connected with the enquiry were going on at locations throughout the country. Many were the result of telephone calls from the public.

Police want to hear again from a woman with an Irish accent who rang on Thursday with vital information but rang off without giving her name.

The woman being held in Derby was one of four people arrested earlier this week. The other three have been released without charge.

Armed police involved in the investigations yesterday detained a woman of 29 and a 35-year-old man in the village of Salby, Leicestershire. They were being questioned last night.

Clergymen question truth

Continued from page 1
dead, our own getting back onto a more positive attitude towards life when we have been down in grief. It is about the sun rising in the morning. It is about spring after winter."

The Rev Stephen Mitchell, rector of Holy Trinity, Barrow upon Soar, first disclosed his unorthodox views in 1989, when he addressed the Mothers' Union on the Nicene creed, making clear to the 30 women that he did not believe in the divinity of Christ. In tomorrow's programme, Mr Mitchell says: "I am happy for them to hold that view [that Christ is divine], but I said that it was not mine." After the talk, three families left to join the Baptist church down the road. Mr Mitchell says: "Moving on is what faith is all about. It does not stand still on eternal truths."

However, he still leads his congregation in saying the creed. "The creed is important. If you like, a summary of the Christian story. I recite it as I recite an epic poem."

Clifford Longley, page 12

Talks start, page 2



A high old time wing-walkers Sara Cubitt, 21, and Helen Tempest, 26, of the Cadbury's Crunchie Flying Circus, doing their final practice sessions over Gloucestershire before the start of the 1992 season. The pair, pictured right, wearing purple leather flying suits, are strapped to supports on top of two Boeing Stearman biplanes, built in the 1940s and piloted by Mike Dentith and Matthew Hill (Robin Young writes). They stay there while the 450 horsepower planes, capable of speeds up to 186mph, go through aerobatic routines which

include loops, barrel rolls, spiral dives and flying upside down, sometimes within 30ft of the ground. Helen, who has been wingwalking for 11 years, holds the record as the youngest woman to ride on a wing. Sara, who joined her in performances at more than 100 airshows last year, was chosen in preference to 2,000 other applicants for the job. The Crunchie Flying Circus Team is unchanged since last year, and Helen says: "I hope this means we can really build on our experiences and refine the act still further."



British worker held as blaze destroys second Expo pavilion

Continued from page 1

partment spokesman said. News reports said the contents of exhibits were not affected. Another site will be provided. The small South Pacific Islands exhibit, built mostly of wood, bamboo and palm fronds was destroyed even though it was only 300 metres from the Expo fire

station. Exactly two months ago the centre piece of the Expo, the multi-million pound Pavilion of the Discover, was also destroyed by fire.

Participants from 110 nations and 23 international organisations are still trying to get the extravaganza organised before the curtain goes up for this Monday's

royal premiere attended by King Juan Carlos of Spain. So far the dress rehearsals have been a disaster because of building delays on the site at La Cartuja island, with props and scenery held up either because individual countries have not got their act together or because Expo officials have not delivered

their shipments. But the chances of all going well on the first night are good because it will be dark. The extraordinary jumble of 95 pavilions, together with the four futuristic bridge linking the Expo across the Guadalquivir river to old Seville, look spectacular when lit up. The first of the expected 18 mil-

lion visitors, including 2.5 million Britons, will have to suffer huge queues with the added headache that technicians still have to iron out a few wrinkles in the finger-print machines that vet tickets.

Photograph, page 10
Saturday Review, page 4

Kabul braced for final attack

Continued from page 1
Panjshir, took Kabul, everyone else would attack. His forces have been reinforced by defections of government militias and alliances with generals in the Kabul forces.

In Kabul the shops were shuttered and streets were mostly deserted as the besieged city waited for the final showdown. Prayers were said for peace, and there were widespread tears of further fighting and bloodshed as the Mujahidin tightened their grip on the city. Sandbags were piled up outside United Nations offices, and western journalists in the city reported scattered shelling in the southern outskirts.

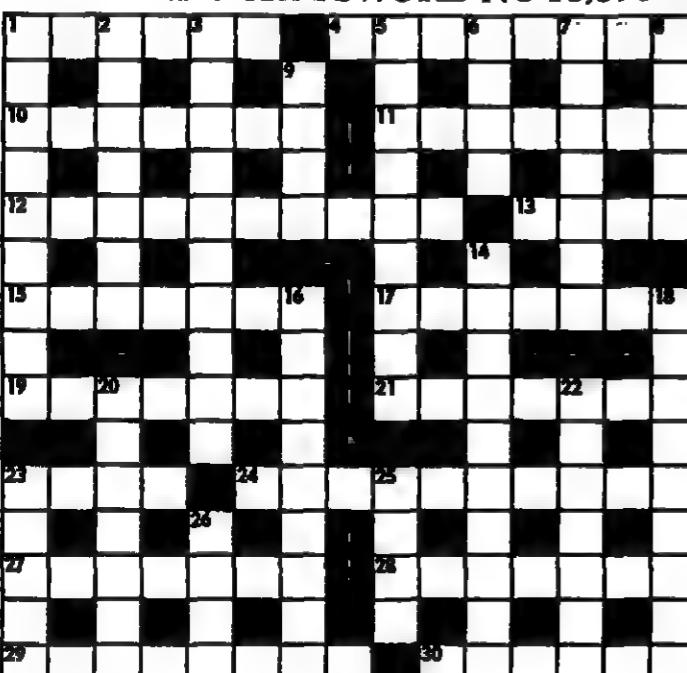
Farid Ahmad Mazdak, a leading figure from the ruling Watan (Homeland) party, said that a Kabul administration could work with Mr Masood and several other prominent guerrilla field commanders. "With the departure of Najibullah there is now no obstacle in the way of peace. It is important for us to achieve understanding with our Mujahidin brothers without delay," he said in an interview with Reuters news agency.

He described the takeover of the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif last month as a model for the course events might take in Kabul. Mazar-i-Sharif fell with very little fighting when its militia defenders agreed to form a joint governing military council with Mr Masood's men.

Despite claims by Hezb-i-Islami to have taken Herat without a fight, a guerrilla news service reported "fierce fighting" near the city, defended by several government-recruited militia groups. Some were widely believed to have maintained strong contacts with the Mujahidin guerrillas. Ismail Khan, the main guerrilla commander in Herat, belongs to Mr Masood's Jamiat-i-Islami party.

Afghan saviour, page 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,896



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

MIMSTUD

- a. A middle-aged slope
- b. Stand for a dog-collar
- c. The music genies pig

CRAFTSTOCK

- a. An article of identity
- b. Craftsmen's stick
- c. Package touristic

QUAGGLE

- a. Collective noun of warthogs
- b. A quivering
- c. A Boy Scout's scarf

EXPONITE

- a. Able to be repeated
- b. Recite or further explanation
- c. Able to be multiplied

Answers on page 14

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

London (within N & S Circ)

M-ways/roads M4-M1

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T

M-ways/roads T-M2-M4

M25 London Orbital only

National

National motorways

West Country

Midlands

East Anglia

North-west England

North-east England

Scotland

Northern Ireland

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA Stalls as increases (10).

Knotted threads we divide (9).

Ultra-late edition of paper — a Times, it turned out (9).

Initial in signature adorned with suitable flourish (7).

Over food a girl shows greed... (7).

...a girl is wrong (5).

Some fruit noisily (4).

Green fabric (4).

ACROSS

- 1 Haranguer from one involved in commerce (6).
- 4 "I'm a devotee", as procrastinator says (8).
- 10 Shot a lot most of the time (7).
- 11 Problems are recurring for humanist (7).
- 12 Continually tell them a different version (3,3,4).
- 13 Glass worth £25 (4).
- 15 Bird or fish-eating animal (7).
- 17 Run the show — the heart's not in it (7).
- 19 Pitch Prince Henry into a street (7).
- 21 Spar with political leader in good health (7).
- 23 Soon chapter abandons one of its members (4).
- 24 For example, 11 rugged men are in pursuit of a forward (6,4).
- 27 Before 5, I am in charge (7).
- 28 Lawrence at home with one composer (7).
- 29 East Europeans hold the second note when backing a song (8).
- 30 An aroma is rising (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,895

DOWN

- 1 Army's taken over house above a stretch of water (6,3).
- 2 Bottom up with fine drink and a big cigar (7).
- 3 Wife gets together with doctor — an affair to which each contributes (5,5).
- 5 One's ideal mate met aboard, perhaps (9).
- 6 Advance unaccompanied, we hear (4).
- 7 Draw man forward — put up a high ball... (7).
- 8...after I run up — that's fraught with danger (5).
- 9 Impression used by secondments (4).
- 10 Stalls as increases (10).
- 11 Knotted threads we divide (9).
- 12 Ultra-late edition of paper — a Times, it turned out (9).
- 13 Initial in signature adorned with suitable flourish (7).
- 14 Over food a girl shows greed... (7).
- 15...a girl is wrong (5).
- 16 Some fruit noisily (4).
- 17 Green fabric (4).

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London & SE

London (within N & S Circ)

M-ways/roads M4-M1

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T

M-ways/roads T-M2-M4

M25 London Orbital only

National

National motorways

West Country

Midlands

East Anglia

North-west England

North-east England

Scotland

Northern Ireland

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Green fabric (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,890

GOERRED G K S

V D O M O R T I S E

ENGEORGE GENERAL

R H D N E H M F

TITLE ASSAILANT

P A B T R T

UNCOUPLE DIVA

M A X E M D V N

PIPE MANIFEST

A V M R B I

DORMITORY CHAMPS

R I T A R A G O

EUSTACE OPERAND

A D G A S E T E

M A N C O S C I E N T L E S S

T M D R E N E G A D E

Weatherfax is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA Stalls as increases (14).

Knotted threads we divide (13).

Ultra-late edition of paper — a Times, it turned out (13).

Initial in signature adorned with suitable flourish (13).

Over food a girl shows greed... (13).

...a girl is wrong (7).

Some fruit noisily (6).

Green fabric (6).

Answers on page 14

Weekend Times

The winners of last Saturday's competition are D Smith, Homestead Road, Caterham, Surrey; D Benman, Glynn Rhosyn, Penyfan, Cardiff; J J Kavanagh, Bicknell Road, Cumberwell, London; T J Evans,

BUSINESS PROFILE: Colin Southgate

Music man tunes into the right wavelength

The chairman of Thorn EMI tells Carol Leonard that he has brought the jewel in the crown back to glory

Colin Southgate, the chairman of Thorn EMI, a conglomerate worth more than £3 billion and, after its purchase of Richard Branson's Virgin label for £560 million, one of the biggest record companies in the world, is not listed in *Who's Who*.

Southgate claims he was sent a form by his publisher, but that it went straight into his "shredding" bin. "I didn't fit in because it's a waste of bloody time... I'm not here to make things useful," he says. "It's just not the sort of thing that has ever really interested me. And I would rarely use it to find out about other people. I would ring someone I know who knows them instead." He always tackles problems head on.

As the interview begins, Southgate has a choice of half a dozen seating positions. He chooses the one furthest away. From such a distance he looks younger than his 53 years. He is 6ft 4in tall, has a full head of grey hair — "I can't remember a time when I wasn't grey" — a long,

aggression and can occasionally spill over into temper. "The reason I'm not a very stressed person is because I can get rid of it by occasionally shouting and using words that I should not use," he says. "Then it all disappears. My wife tells me that I have a certain look. I have a glare I think."

That withering glare, coupled with a few well-chosen words, whispered at close range, once reduced a female Thon employee to tears, when his baggage had been lost in transit. "Yes, I felt awful then," he says.

Southgate has a desire to lead, to always be in control. He admits that he finds his four non-executive directorships — the Bank of England, Lucas, PowerGen and the Prudential — frustrating. "It gives you an opportunity to look at other businesses and make a contribution to their thinking, but it is frustrating for someone, like myself, who would like to get their grubby hands on doing things." He also admits that he is given to instant likes and dislikes, at one

unfortunate

American business associate once discovered. "He was bone bloody ignorant about the international market place, as most Americans are. He made several crass comments, he didn't even know where Lyons was and within five minutes of him walking into the room I was practically at his throat. I do

not like people running down my business out of bone bloody ignorance, it really, really annoys me

not like people running down my business out of bone bloody ignorance, it really, really annoys me. Having owned my own business, I understand about ownership. I'm very proud of this company and very protective."

Despite its size and diversity, Southgate is openly proprietorial about Thorn EMI. He talks about it in personal terms, even though his financial exposure is comparatively small. He owns 51,000 shares outright — worth more than £400,000 — has a large number of share options and was paid a salary of £399,000 in the year to March 1991. The fact that



In harmony: Colin Southgate with Sally, his wife. She was the chairman's daughter

he once ran his own business and was not groomed by Thorn EMI, man and boy, makes it all the more unusual that he should have reached the very top.

Southgate was born into a middle-class family in New Malden, Surrey, and then moved to Epsom.

His father was the second and last

generation to run a family fruit

and vegetable business in Covent

Garden. He began his career as an

"actuarial slave" with NPI; he had

a good mathematical brain, an eye

for detail — "I can get down to niggling detail. I am pretty fussy

about certain things" — have been

known to ask why we are missing a

light bulb in the reception area —

but he hated the job. He stuck it

for three years, then left and went

into computing, spending the next

nine years with ICL. It was there

that he met and married his wife,

Sally, the chairman's daughter.

They have four children, Simon,

Nick, 25, a BBC researcher —

"He is an argumentative sod, we argue

a lot and sometimes worry the

others, but I think we get on all

right. He is my conscience" —

Emma, 21, a medical student, and

Becca, 19.

"I don't think I started really

working — I certainly wasn't

studious at school — until I went

into computing," says Southgate.

"Since then I have enjoyed every

single day of my working life."

ICT led to ICL and in 1970 he

launched his own firm, Software

Sciences. He has since sold it three

times, for a total time for more money.

It has made me financially indepen-

dent," BOC bought it first.

Then Thorn-EMI bought it in 1982,

and in July 1991, South-

gate sold it again, this time to its

management, but without him

being on board. "They paid a huge

amount for it, bless their little

hearts." In business he is not a

sentimental man. He almost always

keeps his emotions under control.

When his father died six

years ago, the news was broken to him while he was at work. "I just wanted to be left on my own. Tears flowed pretty quickly and then it was over." As for music, he says, "I do not get moved to tears but I can lose myself."

Eight months after the sale of

his business to Thorn, Southgate

went into what he now calls his

"semi-retirement". It lasted 18

months and ended when he was

doing so much consultancy work

for Thorn that his accountant

advised him to return to its payroll.

He rejoined the group in 1983,

ran its technology business, which

contained its own software opera-

tion, and went on to the board

when Peter Laister became chair-

man in 1984. He then represented

both the defence and the electron-

ics divisions, was made managing

director in 1985, chief executive in

1987 and chairman in 1989.

"I do not look back... sometimes I cannot believe it," he says,

unaware of any contradiction. "I

was in the right place at the right time. I think I was lucky."

There are those who would say that when Southgate first became chairman, he was dwarfed by the job. To an objective observer, his chances of success or failure were evenly balanced. But he grew with the job, perhaps carried through by his unerring self-confidence. He mastered it, and proved his doubters wrong.

Sir Peter Walters, the former BP chairman and non-executive deputy chairman of Thorn, says: "He is the original self-made computer entrepreneur who found himself in a company much bigger than he had ever thought about and who needed a few signposts along the way. Intellectually, he never had any problem. He never holds anything back. There's a sort of schoolboy element in him that loves the excitement of the world he now deals in." It is that schoolboy enthusiasm that makes him appear younger than his years.

Financial independence has given the Southgates an enviable lifestyle. Home is a 16th century farmhouse in Berkshire. Holidays are spent at a five-bedroomed house in the south of France. Weekday nights are often spent at a company-owned house off Park Lane, Mayfair. "I stay there perhaps two nights a week and use it for entertaining. It means you can have better wine much cheaper. I

take it all quite seriously. I'm fussy, I pick the menu and all the wines. I'm a good organiser — I have the timing worked out like a military exercise. Southgate insists that he is not extravagant. "I am not at all materialistic. I would not buy myself a £500 bottle of wine. I would rather buy myself a £100 bottle of wine and

keep it for ten years until it is worth £500 and then drink it." Wealth is, as always, relative.

Nor is he a workaholic. "I very rarely take work home, it's a bit of an imposition to interrupt one's private life." But once at home, he can be moody and silent.

For someone who is not a workaholic and who has had so much financial success, it is difficult to see what motivates him now. "I'm driven by success, motivated by challenge. In fact I'm probably in need of one now. I still feel as if there is another job in me. I'm certainly not worn out or exhausted, or anything like that."

"I am fussy about certain things. I have been known to ask why we are missing a light bulb in the reception area"

keep it for ten years until it is worth £500 and then drink it." Wealth is, as always, relative.

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WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

All eyes trained on ever ready Hanson



THE first week of the fourth Tory term — or week zero as liberal-leaning optimists have dubbed it — has seen some curious pointers to the economic future.

Even before John Major had finished appointing his Carrie-less cabinet, the business world was moving rapidly to come to terms with the new political order. In just a few hectic days Hanson sold Ever Ready batteries to the Americans. The Germans bought one of our biggest central heating boiler manufacturers and the Isle of Man announced it would be a running a budget deficit. What did it all mean?

Taking the easiest first, we turn immediately to Douglas. When Donald Gelling, the Manx treasury minister, was drawing up plans for his budget, he was confidently looking forward to announcing a huge budget surplus thanks to the wealth-exporting power of John Smith's proposals.

But the best laid plans, not to mention campaigns...

When the secretly com-

missioned P&O ferry fleet unex-

pectedly stayed in home

waters last weekend, it was

back to the cash flow projec-

tions for Mr Gelling. Not

that Norman Lamont, the

twenty-eight billion pound

man, will be shedding many

tears for his Manx counter-

part. Mr Gelling's projected

deficit for the forthcoming

financial year is a mere £4.5

million. Plans to cover the

shortfall are already ad-

vanced. Mr Gelling flies to

Florida this weekend to per-

suade Nigel Mansell to move

back home. A stumble in

the apparently inexorable

rise in people unemployed

prompted a fresh outbreak of

economic optimism. This

feel-a-bit-better factor was

heightened by the news that

Robert Bosch, the German

industrial giant, was paying

£80 million for Worcester

Group, that Ralston Purina,

an American company, was

buying Ever Ready for £132

million, and that Hongkong

and Shanghai Bank was of-

fering £3.1 billion for the

Midland Bank.

There can be no sound

confirmation that the econo-

my has turned. British own-

ers, worn out by three years of

downsides, calling it a day,

just as overseas investors are

</div

The award for the most inhumane bank manager must go to a National Westminster branch manager in Reading who, this week, told a widow in her seventies that she should consider selling her home when her account became £200 overdrawn because of charges he had imposed.

The customer had received a warning letter for being overdrawn on the day she went into hospital for major surgery a few weeks ago. She arrived home to several other letters, including one that told her that using her cheque book or cheque card "could be construed as criminal activity".

The letters were charged for at £20 a time and, at the end of last month, a £30 unauthorised overdraft fee was levied.

When the customer went with a neighbour to see her manager on Monday, they explained that she had not been able to respond to the letters earlier as she had been in hospital. He did not offer to waive the charges that aggravated a very small overdraft, but asked if

she had thought any more about selling her £80,000 home. By doing this and buying a mobile home she could raise £25,000 to invest, he said. Perhaps she could invest it with the bank.

No the solution most of us would want suggested to an elderly relative recovering from major surgery. It beggars belief that he could come up with it at such a time. He could have aided her recovery by telling her not to worry, that he was removing the charges and that when she was better the branch would help her to come to a longer-term solution.

The customer admits that she has drifted in and out of the red by small amounts for some time. She agrees with the manager that her problem is that she does not have much income. She has a state pension plus a small pension from her husband's company. Some time ago, when she still had some

savings, she was asked what assets she had and how she was going to resolve the fact that her income did not cover her outgoings. She says she was so embarrassed that she mentioned selling her only asset in the expectation that she would be told not to be so foolish.

When Weekend Money intervened, £110 of charges were waived, but four £16 quarterly fees for being overdrawn remained, as did the interest charges. The bank now plans to try to help the customer to sort out her finances without having to sell her home. We can only hope that there are

no other customers too frightened to fight back. Perhaps the bank manager ought to spend the weekend considering whether he would like his mother, aunt or any other relative, to be put out of their home to pay for bank charges.

Fair dues

Building societies are beginning to pay for their own mistakes. Since the beginning of April, their ombudsmen have started to levy an extra charge, according to how many

complaints are made about the societies. This means that those societies that endeavour to deal honestly and efficiently with all their investors and borrowers and have top-quality staff handling complaints could pay less to the ombudsman's office.

Those that have adopted a cavalier attitude to their members, been careless about informing savers about new accounts paying better rates of interest and have allowed administration to get out of hand will pay more.

The building societies ombudsman's office received more than twice as many complaints in the year to March 31 as in the previous year. It seems only right that the well-run societies should not pay disproportionately for the accident-prone.

The new system for paying for the three ombudsmen and their growing staff might also encourage

age societies to sort out problems for themselves, rather than passing the buck to an outside body.

Until now, it has cost them no more if they had 1,000 complaints or 100. There will now be further cost considerations when implementing unpopular policies. It should prove an incentive to societies to upgrade their complaints procedures. One insurance company that has done this is Sun Alliance. It accidentally sent a number of people renewal notices without the bank giro forms that allow people to pay over the counter in banks or building societies.

This caused a 97-year-old customer great problems. Her neighbour had to travel from south London to the City to pay the cash because she had no credit card or bank account. Upon hearing about it, the insurance company immediately wrote to apologise, sent her flowers and set about sorting out any similar problems for other inconvenienced policyholders. All financial institutions should take note.

The unacceptable face of banking

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Holidaymakers pay price for failing to check insurance

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THOUSANDS of travellers will leave Britain this weekend without enough insurance. Many others will buy policies when they book their holidays that could leave them out of pocket.

The problem lies with the standard holiday insurance package that does not take account of non-standard luggage and jewellery or the problems of travelling from holiday locations to airports or ferry ports.

Often the very cover that is needed is excluded from the policy. In the past two years many insurance companies have decided to specifically exclude cover for items stolen from uninsured cars from both travel and home contents policies.

In addition most travel policies limit the claims on individual items and on the total payout to below the value of the contents of a typical family's luggage. However, it is often possible to top-up this payout with a claim on a home contents policy.

The exclusion of items stolen from uninsured cars follows a ruling by the Court of Appeal that Prudential Assurance should pay £43,175 for jewellery and luggage stolen from a car when it was left at Dover Castle in 1986.

The company had claimed it was not liable to compensate the complainant under his "all risks" home contents policy or his travel insurance because he had not taken "reasonable steps" to safeguard the insured items.

As a result of this case many companies decided to spell out in policy documents that such claims were excluded. This caused great difficulty for holidaymakers stopping for a meal on their journey or those who pack the boot the night before departure ready for an early start.

In one case, a family parked its car in a multi-storey car park in San Francisco. They all went for a meal and arranged hotel accommodation. On returning to the car, they found that all their luggage, including presents and flightbags, had been stolen with the exception of the father's suitcase. The family had paid £208 for in-

surance cover and thought the car park with a permanently staffed office and costing £25 a day was secure.

The incident spoiled the rest of the holiday and on their return they made a claim that exceeded the policy's maximum of £4,000 only to be told nothing would be paid as the theft was from an "unattended vehicle". The family had been unaware of that exclusion.

Such exclusions concern Julian Farrant, the insurance ombudsman, when they are not detailed to the policyholder at the time the policy is taken out. This is often the case with holiday insurance when customers fill in a box on the holiday booking form and do not receive full policy details until later, if at all.

In the San Francisco case, the insurer, IGI, told the Association of British Insurers that the onus was on the policyholder to make himself fully aware of the terms, conditions and exclusions of a policy before entering into the contract. The company is not a member of the insurance ombudsman's scheme so it cannot look into the case.

An IGI official said most of its policies excluded property left in unattended vehicles. The vast majority of customers receive full policy details, he said. In some cases where

Many people have their claims reduced because the policy has a modest limit on theft, loss or damage claims

a late booking was made over the telephone it was not possible to send out details.

He added that people travelling abroad had three options if their luggage was in the car: they could leave someone in the car, take their luggage with them, or risk it being stolen.

Many people have their claims reduced because the policy has a modest limit on theft, loss or damage claims.

One couple who fell foul of this were Margaret and Bryan Dickinson of Ruthin in Clwyd. They received only a quarter of their claim for jewellery and other items sto-

nated from the Spanish villa in which they were staying. Their holiday insurance with Bishopton had a £200 limit per item. This can be increased to £500 by paying an extra premium.

The couple had gone out for an hour in the evening on the fourth night of a month-long holiday. The iron doors of their patio were wrenched open and jewellery, a camera and money were taken.

Although the holiday insurance had a limit, it is possible for people in this situation to claim part or all of the shortfall from the household contents insurance if they have "all risks" cover.

As long as they do not claim twice for the same items there is no reason why people should not make a claim on more than one policy for compensation for one incident the Association of British Insurers said.

Bishopton also excludes claims for property stolen when left overnight in an unattended car. It will pay out only for items stolen from a car if they were locked in the boot.

National Westminster Bank has a single item limit of £250 and total payout limit of £1,750 for baggage. It usually covers only items locked in a boot. It will consider claims for items kept in a locked glove compartment.

Barclays has a single item limit of £250 and a total baggage limit of £1,500. It will pay for stolen items that were locked in a boot.

Midland has an individual item limit of £300 and a baggage ceiling of £1,750. Items stolen from cars are excluded. It expects the holidaymakers' motor insurance to pay out.

Lloyds Bank has an individual limit of £250 and a baggage limit of £1,500. Claims for items stolen from cars will be paid if the policyholder has not been careless and left items visible to thieves.

TSB will pay out up to £1,500 for baggage claims with a single item limit of £200. It will pay out for items stolen from cars if care has been taken to protect the property.

Within 24 hours, had this been necessary.

Holidaymakers do need to read the small print of their policies as there are many variations in the cover. Commercial Union limits claims on luggage to £1,000 and cash to £250 on its holiday cover and asks customers to take "reasonable care" when leaving property in cars. Each decision depends on the individual circumstances.

Norwich Union has a single item limit of £200. This can be increased to £500 on payment of an additional premium. It excludes property stolen from vehicles. Home &

holiday and probably get back into the UK as well. Credit cards can sometimes be used in lieu of passports.

Card details and emergency telephone numbers should be kept separately from the cards. Travellers can face problems other than those that are criminally inspired. In France, shoppers with cards are increasingly asked for PIN numbers, which can be inconvenient for those who have not memorised them.

Nowadays, most transactions reach card issuers within two weeks. Many take just a few days. Exchange rates from bank to bank. Barclaycard uses its normal retail exchange rate, taken on the day the slip is received.

Lloyds Access and Master Gold Card use the Mastercard wholesale rate, plus 2 per cent. TSB uses a system that involves changing currencies into dollars and then into sterling. This roughly equates to wholesale rates, plus 2.75 per cent.

National Westminster uses the fine inter-bank rate, which again tends to be lower than the retail rate. The rate used is the one in operation the day before the transaction reaches the statement.

How to trump card tricksters

By LIZ DOLAN

THE increase in the use of plastic cards by overseas travellers is matched only by the growth in the ways devised by criminals to defraud card holders.

Around the world, credit cards are duplicated, forged, photographed or simply stolen. Issuers are now used to dealing with enquiries from customers who cannot understand why their monthly account records payments purportedly made by them to shops or restaurants of which they have never visited.

However, there is no doubt that plastic continues to be one of the safest methods of carrying money, not least because the most card holders have to pay after reporting a lost or stolen card. It is the first £50 of any subsequent loss. Cards are also more convenient and usually cheaper than traveller's cheques.

Richard Tyson-Davies, of the Association of Payment Clearance Services, said: "The most important piece of advice I can give to anyone taking their cards abroad is never to let them out of sight, especially in the United States and the Far East. Go with the waiter if he takes your card away after a meal or, if possible, ask him to make out the

voucher at your table. In the Far East especially, it is quite common for people to take an imprint of the cards and sell it to their friends. Sometimes, they have the equipment to copy the electronic details contained inside the strip."

Mark Christopher, of Save & Prosper, said: "You should always be suspicious of any retailer who takes your card into the backroom or wherever. It is quite common in these circumstances for people to take a few extra vouchers

while out of sight."

Card holders who detect payments on their statements they are certain they did not make should subtract the disputed payments from their cheque and alert their bank. Barclaycard said: "This really applies only to cards with no preset, or very high, spending limits, and tends to be concentrated in certain parts of the world."

To guard against straight theft, Mr Tyson-Davies advises keeping cards as close to the body as possible. Indeed, he once went white-water rafting in America with his credit cards wrapped in a plastic bag in his swimming trunks. "I reasoned that, if everything else was taken, I could still continue with my



Cover story: Margaret and Bryan Dickinson who lost out on claim for theft

Tourists stay with traveller's cheques

RUMOURS of the death of the traveller's cheque have been greatly exaggerated, according to Ian Spight, Thomas Cook's financial services director (Liz Dolan writes).

He says: "People keep trying to write them off, but they are as still as popular as ever. No other method can offer the same refund benefits and many people prefer the discipline traveller's cheques exert on spending habits."

Eurocheques are also useful. They are accepted in many outlets in Europe, North Africa and Turkey. Eurocheque cards may also be used to withdraw cash from 53,000 ATMs in several countries, provided they have an activated metallic strip.

There is a commission charge of 1.6 per cent per transaction, plus a handling fee of about 30p per cheque. Richard Tyson-Davies, of the Association of Payment Clearance Services, says that some banks try to charge more. If this happens, his advice is to protest strongly. The European Commission has fined French bank £5 million in ecus for making extortionate charges on Eurocheques.

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Dealing offer for readers

READERS of *The Times* can sell any privatisation shares for £10 per deal with up to four members in the same family with shares in the same company dealing for one deal.

The postal dealing service is offered by Hambro Clearing, a subsidiary of Hambro plc. The deals can be offered at this price because large numbers of sell orders for the same share are batched together and sold for the best price. This can cause a small delay, but all shares will be sold on the day after receipt of the stock.

Investors are then sent a posted cheque for the amount of the sale realised, less the commission, together with a contract note detailing the price obtained. The cheque is dated for the next Stock Exchange account day when payment is due to the share seller.

The service is execution-only, which means that no advice is given and shareholders must sell all their stock in one company.

The company estimates it can handle 5,000 deals a day through its Cardiff dealing centre, and its other offices can be brought on line to help out if demand warrants it.

Families are charged an extra £2 for each additional shareholding.

By HELEN PRUDHAM

JUST as the equity market shot up after the Conservative election victory, so too did the gilt market. Having fallen about 5 per cent in the previous six weeks, it regained all this loss and more besides. The Bank of England used the opportunity to sell a further £5 billion of stock on the day after the election.

David Rosier, of Mercury Asset Management, said: "Gilt investors responded to the prospect that interest rates and inflation were more likely to continue downwards under a Conservative government. Both of these factors are good for gilts. Foreign buyers also gained confidence."

Whereas share prices are likely to continue to be volatile and the outlook for dividends is uncertain, investors who buy gilts now can lock into current interest rates and also be sure of a fixed capital return if they hold the stocks to maturity. In terms of security, few investments compare with gilts, which are issued by governments when they need to borrow money from private and institutional investors.

The return on gilts reflects current interest rate expectations. They are yielding up to 9.5 to 10 per cent at present. For the private investor, there are three ways of buying gilts direct, or they can be bought through unit trusts.

The cheapest method is to buy newly issued stock direct from the Bank of England as there is no commission to pay. They can be bought by filling in a newspaper coupon when a new issue is offered for sale. The minimum stake is £1,000 nominal value.

Gilts are priced in nominal £100 lots but new issues start off at a fixed price. Investors normally only pay a deposit initially. When the average price tendered by the institutions for the same issue has been worked out, this becomes the striking price and investors are then asked to pay the balance.

The problem with buying new issues, however, is that there may be none on offer when investors want them or they may not suit their requirements. The alternative is to buy an existing stock either through a broker or the National Savings Stock Register.

Buying through the register is simple and costs £4 for each £1,000 of stock bought. Up to £10,000 per day can be invested in any one stock. The application forms, obtained at post offices, should be sent to the Bonds and Stock Office in Blackpool. The issues that can be purchased through the register are listed in a booklet available at post offices. An up-to-date list can also be obtained from the Bonds and Stock Office. The half-yearly income payment dates are also listed.

Prices can be checked in newspapers. Anyone who pays more than 100p will suffer a capital loss on maturity.

Apart from the cheapness of dealing, an advantage of buying gilts through the register is that interest is paid without tax deducted. How-

Conservative victory puts a shine back on the gilts market

BRIEFINGS

HAFNIA Prolific International is to launch the first China fund recognised by the Securities and Investments Board on April 28. The China Opportunities fund will invest only 10 per cent directly in China initially and will look to China-oriented companies in well-established markets, such as Hong Kong, for the rest. The fund is one of five being launched, which will be listed on the Dublin Stock Exchange. The others are American, European Growth, Japan, Growth and Asia Pacific, excluding Japan. There is an investment minimum of £1,500. There is a 2 per cent charge on the China fund, although this is halved until May 19. The other funds have a charge of 1 per cent and single pricing will operate on the funds. The annual charge is 1.25 per cent. Last week, Barclays and GT launched similar funds to take advantage of the opening of the Chinese market to outsiders.

Baillie Gifford has launched a bond unit trust that will invest in longer term corporate and public authority bonds, mainly in the UK and European Community, and will also have a significant gilt holding. The gross yield is expected to be 8.5 per cent. The front end charge is 5 per cent and the annual management fee is 0.4 per cent. The minimum investment is £5,000.

NatWest has beefed up its telephone banking service. Customers can now set up bill payments, inter-account transfers and requests for balances by a local rate call.

The Inland Revenue has published a leaflet for people going abroad to work. IRS8 deals with the rules for deciding a person's residence status for tax purposes and the tax position of someone who works abroad but is treated as resident and ordinarily resident in the UK. It is called *Going to Work Abroad*.

Age Concern's benefits guide, *Your Rights 1992-93*, will be published on Thursday. The book, which costs £2.50, is sorely needed. The charity says that department of social security figures show that 21 per cent of pensioners entitled to income support do not claim.

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Finding an unwanted bond with taxman

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

ROBERT Chisnall has 10,000 premium bonds, but he does not want to win a big prize yet. If he does the Inland Revenue will carry it off.

Mr Chisnall, a demolition contractor from Clacton, Essex, was made bankrupt in 1988 when the Revenue demanded £67,000 in tax. He could not pay. Last year, his bankruptcy was discharged, but his 10,000 premium bonds were retained by the trustee until his creditors are paid.

That means the Revenue will take any prize he wins in the meantime. If one of his bonds were to win the jackpot he would receive the surplus but a £50,000 prize would go to the Revenue after the costs of the bankruptcy were deducted. Indeed, it may have benefited already without Mr Chisnall's knowledge.

He said: "I still have the certificates, but when I telephoned the bonds office in Blackpool, and quoted my bondholder's number, I was refused information about any prize that might have been paid out."

Mr Chisnall cannot understand why the trustee in bankruptcy, Brian Mills, of Booth, White, did not sell the bonds to pay £10,000 off the tax bill at the time of his bankruptcy.

"I would like to find out how much the bonds have won since 1988 so that I know how much is still owed," he said. Until he has



STEFAN ROUSSEAU

Luck of the draw: Robert Chisnall who does not want to win a big prize from Ernie at the moment

paid off the full amount owed to the Revenue in 1988, his bankruptcy cannot be terminated. His discharge allows him to have a cheque account or become a company director, but the money is still

trustee would have been informed. This office tends to hear of the situation from the Official Receiver or the trustees. Effectively the holding becomes the property of the trustees."

A spokesman for Mr Mills said: "A trustee, where he does not have a creditor's committee to guide him, is to talk to the creditors in general. If there are major

turn them into money. We are in line with any other creditors. The trustee could have cashed in the bonds. We would not influence his actions."

"This is because the main creditor could gain or lose the most. In this case, as the Inland Revenue is to date the only known creditor, obviously their wishes in the matter are paramount.

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SOURCE: '77 MONEY MANAGEMENT MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 1991
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Deadline approaches for power shareholders

BY LIZ DOLAN

SHAREHOLDERS in Scottish Power and Hydro-Electric have until next Friday, April 24, to decide whether to sell up or pay the 70p second instalment on the shares. After that date, they lose the option of cutting their losses and bailing out of what has proved, from the investment point of view, two of the least successful privatisations so far.

Shares in both companies start trading in second instalment form on April 27. Payment cheques should reach the registrars by April 29 to ensure that they have been cleared by May 5.

The shares, issued at 100 last June, have never again reached their respective opening prices of 123p (Hydro-Electric) and 118p (Scottish

Power). In the run-up to the election, Hydro fell to a low of 73p, and ScotPower 68p. On the announcement of a Conservative victory, the stock market value of Hydro increased by 18 per cent within a few hours. However, even after rises of that scale, shares in both companies are still selling at about the 100p issue price.

Mike Keohane, head of corporate communications at Hydro-Electric, said: "The shares were very finely priced. The investors' loss was the taxpayers' gain, and at least the opposition parties can't claim it was a giveaway."

Both companies say that many more shareholders have hung on to their shares than would normally be the

case after privatisation. Hydro-Electric is keen to get rid of as many as possible of its small shareholders. About 600,000 people in England and Wales each hold between 90 and 100 shares in the company.

Mr Keohane said: "It's a tremendous administrative burden and we'd very much like to see a reduction in numbers, though clearly we want all serious long-term investors to stick with it. There is always a conflict of interest between a government that wishes to broaden share ownership and a company that prefers long-term investors."

As a carrot for potential sellers, Hydro set up a cheap dealing service on March 9. The service initially attracted

2,000 sell orders, before the pre-election fall in the share price put a damper on things.

Mr Keohane is hoping a large number of people will take advantage of the offer next week, now that the shares have peaked up.

The service is operated by the Royal Bank of Scotland in conjunction with Bell Leisure White, the stockbroker, and runs until at least May 29. Up to six members of the same family can sell shares to a maximum value of £3,000 for a fee of £10. Most people who opted to receive vouchers to set against their electricity bills have already qualified for all the vouchers due to them.

People with 300, or fewer, shares in both companies received their total entitlement.

ment, worth between £18 and £54, in December. Those who chose bonus shares will not qualify until June 30, 1994.

Scottish Power takes a more cautious view about encouraging shareholders to sell out. An official said: "We are wary of putting any extra pressure on the share price at the moment. We are waiting until after the second call is safely away. But we are planning our own cheap dealing service in the summer."

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Societies woo the nervous borrower

By LIZ DOLAN

MORTGAGE lenders hope that the surge in economic confidence since the election will lead to a commensurate increase in the number of people looking for a new home over the Easter weekend, traditionally the peak period for house-hunters.

Fixed mortgages, shelfed before the election because of interest rate uncertainty, are back as lenders try to tempt nervous borrowers.

Cheltenham & Gloucester has launched a new 9.9 per cent (11.2 per cent APR) two-year fixed rate mortgage. It is available on its interest-only or repayment mortgages and remortgages of up to 90 per cent of the valuation. It is fully portable. The application fee is £250 and the early redemption penalty is three months' gross interest.

TSB has a fixed mortgage until the end of July next year at 9.5 per cent (10 per cent APR) for first-time buyers. Abbey National is offering a new fixed rate mortgage set at 10.15 per cent (11.6 per cent APR) until November 30, 1994. The administration fee is £125 and there is a redemption penalty of 90 days' interest. Abbey's 10.99 per cent fixed rate mortgage is still on offer.

The Woolwich's new fixed rate mortgage charges 9.8 per cent (11.5 per cent APR), but it lasts only a year. The application fee is £150 and there is a redemption charge equal to three months' interest.

Credit blacklists cause distress

From Dr S. A. Feldman

Sir, Your editorial (April 4) on the deficient control of information provided by county courts to credit rating businesses draws attention to the regrettable lack of control in the screening of this data.

My wife and I were refused credit on the basis of a reported judgment in Kensington County Court against us. In spite of my protest to the court that no judgment existed, it took three months and solicitor's letters before the Lord Chancellor's Office admitted that it had been in error. I have received no apology from the credit agency, only an arrogant letter saying that they had published the libel in good faith.

The credit companies underestimate the distress they

cause to responsible people of financial probity by failing to check the significance and veracity of the information. Surely, it would not be unreasonable to inform people before they are blacklisted, to give them an opportunity to correct incorrect or misinformed entries.

As a responsible senior doctor, a university professor and a member of the University of London senate, I was horrified to be blacklisted and still feel my reputation has been ruined by the experience.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY FELDMAN,
(Magill Professor of
Anaesthetics, Charing Cross & Westminster Medical
School),
28 Moore Street,
SW3.

Building societies and a/c payee cheques

From the Under Secretary of The Building Societies Association

Sir, In his letter (April 4) Mr D. J. Wilson suggested that, when the Cheques Act 1992 comes into force, there may be difficulties in paying a cheque crossed "account payee only" into a building society account.

The Building Societies Association monitored the bill carefully during its progress through Parliament and took counsel's opinion on certain issues arising out of the bill, including the one addressed by Mr Wilson.

Council's view was that, in such circumstances, the building society would simply be arranging collection on behalf of its customer and there would be no reason for the customer to endorse the cheque.

Yours faithfully,
C. LAWRENSON,
Under Secretary,
The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row,
W1.

payee" or "account payee only" of their transferability so that any such purported endorsement would be superfluous.

The British Bankers' Association, with which we also consulted, emphasised that the clearing banks did not consider that the bill, if enacted, would prevent them from collecting non-transferable cheques for societies or non-clearing banks for which they acted as clearing agents.

In conclusion, when the act comes into force on June 16, customers should not experience problems in paying non-transferable cheques into their building society accounts.

Yours faithfully,
G. DAVY,
197 Weston Way,
Baldock, Hertfordshire.

Instead of the usual brickbat, may I offer Barclays a small bouquet? For 50 years, the bank has managed my finances with consummate skill and unfailing courtesy.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD RIGG,
Ince Cottage,
Wheathamstead,
Hertfordshire.



Bouquets not brickbats for Barclays

From Mr Ronald Rigg

Sir, No reader of Weekend Money can fail to have noticed (especially in "Letters") frequent and not-too-complimentary references to Barclays Bank. And Comment (April 11) also had a little gift.

Instead of the usual brickbat, may I offer Barclays a small bouquet? For 50 years, the bank has managed my finances with consummate skill and unfailing courtesy.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD RIGG,
Ince Cottage,
Wheathamstead,
Hertfordshire.

All those regular "nasties" — even the television licence — are paid by direct debit. Though I am nearly 80, and with a greatly reduced income, the magic formula still works, and for all it has done, the bank has never charged me a penny.

Instead of the usual brickbat, may I offer Barclays a small bouquet? For 50 years, the bank has managed my finances with consummate skill and unfailing courtesy.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD RIGG,
Ince Cottage,
Wheathamstead,
Hertfordshire.

Debts of the family

From Mr George Davy

Sir, I read Lindsay Cook's article (April 11) regarding information on credit reference files and was interested in Elizabeth Stanton's comment on behalf of the Retail Credit Group. If, as she asserts, there is mutual responsibility within a family for debts run up by a son or daughter, the corollary is that there is no debt allowed until an enquiry is made from the family that it will accept the debts or bills of its members.

Yours faithfully,
G. DAVY,
197 Weston Way,
Baldock, Hertfordshire.

Some mistake

From G. M. Anthony

Sir, Regarding Dr Times' letter (April 11) about Scottish Widows' "mistake", am I alone in wondering why the mistakes are always in the banks' or institutions' favour?

Yours faithfully,
G. M. ANTHONY,
6 Old Rectory Close,
Emsworth, Hampshire.

Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Commission rates and NPI

From the Assistant General Manager (Marketing), National Provident Institution

Sir, I am writing in connection with your article (Weekend Money, April 11). In my opinion, the references to NPI fail the criterion of reasonable balance.

The brochures you refer to are only a part — and a small part — of a significant promotional campaign for the products you mention, which has been running since the autumn of last year. The vast bulk of this campaign has focused on the products and, in particular, how they best fit potential customers' needs.

To take just one example of the many I could give, we held over 150 pensions transfer workshops for independent financial advisers. Each workshop lasted several hours and covered the product in great detail, dealing with all aspects of the subject product design, use in various customer circumstances, legislative framework, etc. As these workshops, commission was not even discussed.

However, my primary reason for writing is that I am anxious that your article is potentially misleading in that it might give the impression that NPI is unusual and excessive in the rates of commission that it pays.

On the contrary, NPI has a well-established policy of setting its commission rates so that they are roughly mid-market amongst the offices who have as their prime source of business the independent financial adviser's market.

Yours faithfully,

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at least quarterly	Maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c:	2.63	2.66	2.12	none/home	7 day
Typical					
Fixed Term Deposits:					
1 month	5.58	5.58	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-226 1587
3 months	5.72	5.72	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-226 1587
6 months	5.82	5.82	25,000-50,000	6 min	Local Branch
1 year	5.81	5.81	25,000-50,000	1 year	071-226 1576
Lloyds	5.61	5.61	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-226 1585
Midland	5.77	5.77	10,000-100,000	3 min	071-226 22655
1 year	5.71	5.71	10,000-100,000	3 min	071-226 1000
NatWest	5.63	5.63	10,000-50,000	3 min	071-226 1000
1 year	5.63	5.63	10,000-50,000	3 min	071-226 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

	Bank	Rate	Min. balance	Max. balance	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Bank of Scotland NMC	6.17	6.33	5.06	2,500	none	031-442 7777
Prudential	5.75	5.91	4.73	2,500	none	004-228291
Co-operative	5.95	1.90	1.52	1,000	none	071-682 6545
Ulster	5.25	5.25	4.20	1,000	none	073 223 2076
West Brom	5.85	1.85	1.51	1,000	none	073 223 3337
Lloyds NMC	1.85	1.85	1.50	2,000	none	0742 528655
Midland NMC	4.44	4.45	3.95	2,000	none	0742 528655
Special Reserve	4.58	4.70	3.67	500	none	071-374 3374
Short Term	5.65	5.74	4.59	2,000	none	071-600 8000
NMC	4.31	4.31	3.45	2,000	none	071-600 8000

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

	Bank	Rate	Min. balance	Max. balance	Notice	Contact
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Guarany A/c:	5.00	5.75	5.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c:	5.50	7.15	5.75	25,000-50,000	1 min	0233 681 5151
Income Bond:	10.25	12.50	10,000	25,000-50,000	1 min	041-649-4555
Deposit Cert:	5.20	5.75	5.15	25,000-50,000	10 day	071-385 4900
Ready Plan:	5.50	6.50	5.50	25,000-50,000	14 day	071-385 4900
Children's Plan:	11.00	11.00	11.00	10,000	14 day	071-385 4900
Capital Bond:	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	8 yrs	041-649-4555

PROFITABLE INCOME BONDS

	Bank	Rate	Min. balance	Max. balance	Notice	Contact
PROFITABLE INCOME BONDS						
Guarany A/c:	5.00	5.75	5.00	5,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from Chase de
Income Dividend Plan:	5.70	5.70	5,000 min	8 yrs	Figures from Chase de	
Canada Life:	5.50	5.50	50,000 min	8 yrs	Figures from Chase de	
Financial Ass:	5.50	5.50	50,000 min	10 yrs	Figures from Chase de	
Financial Ass:	5.50	5.50	50,000 min	12 yrs	Figures from Chase de	
Capital Bond:	5.50	5.50	100-100,000	8 yrs	Figures from Chase de	

EQUESTRIANISM

Elimination of British rider causes uproar

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA

THE opening leg of the Volvo World Cup final ended in chaos last on Thursday night when, to the unrestrained fury of the 6,000-strong crowd, Britain's Tina Cassan was eliminated before she had started. The judges ruled that she had failed to jump the first fence within 60 seconds of passing the starting line.

In scenes unprecedented in the sport, the crowd rose to its feet, booing, clapping and chanting at the five judges. Cassan, competing on Fred Brown's Genesis in her first World Cup final, stopped as she approached the start line, after noticing that the clock had already started.

Aware that the clock had started prematurely for an earlier competitor, Germany's experienced Ludger Beerbaum — who learned of the error only at the end of his round — Cassan stopped. Pointing at the clock, she looked questioningly at the judges.

To everyone's surprise, the judges told her to continue with the clock as it was, claiming that she had already, albeit inadvertently, crossed the unusually wide start line while warming up — after the bell had gone. Cassan refused to start and was eliminated for exceeding the 60-second rule.

The crowd, already angered by the judges' apparent disregard for Beerbaum's incorrect time, raised their fists at the jury's box shouting, stamping and chanting "Tina! Tina!" Raymond Brooks-Ward, a member of the World Cup committee, said that, in 40 years in the sport, he had never witnessed such scenes.

Cassan, aged 26, refused to leave the arena. "I knew if I left I would not be allowed to

jump," she said. For 20 minutes, while the crowd hurled abuse at the judges, she walked round the arena trying to calm the eight-year-old Genesis. The jury, having spoken to Brooks-Ward, finally announced that she could compete but that her round might not count. They would decide after watching a video of her effort.

In these unnerving circumstances, Cassan set off again for the start and, watched by a now almost apoplectic owner, she jumped a clear round to finish eighth out of 46, which would have left her well in contention.

Her delight was short-lived. The jury, having seen the video, upheld its decision and also refused Beerbaum's request to have his time

reduced. Both riders have lodged appeals but Franz Prantner, a member of the three-man appeals jury, appeared unsympathetic to their plight yesterday. Whatever the outcome of the future, it has already damaged the sport and blighted this final.

It also detracted from a stylish and well-deserved victory by the Swiss rider, Markku Fuchs, on Interpace Shandor. Fuchs bought the horse only six weeks ago and, with his \$25,000 (about £14,000) prize-money, can now repay the loan he took out to make the purchase.

Tim Brug, Britain's only other rider, is lying nineteenth after unluckily hitting the last fence on Ever. The favourites, Ian Millar, of Canada, on Big Ben, and four others are lying 32nd.

RESULTS: Volvo World Cup final. First leg (left): 1, Interpace Shandor (M Fuchs, 68.27sec); 2, Bommann's Genius (F Schutte, 67.24sec); 3, Big Ben (I Millar, 67.95sec); 4, Shandor (T Cassan, 71.18sec); 18, Ever (T Guise, 76.08sec).

Stark heads entry

LEADING riders from 15 nations have entered the Dabuhs Brigstock horse trials — the prime pre-Badminton event — at Farnham Wood Hall, Brigstock, Northamptonshire, tomorrow (a Special

Correspondent writes). Their interest indicates the hot pace in Olympic year.

Ian Stark, the double European gold medal winner, who is fresh from his British success, heads the British entry.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Colchester close to twin triumph

By WALTER GAMMIE

ROY McDonough, the Colchester United player-manager, felt the tide turned in his side's favour after the matches in the GM Vauxhall Conference on Tuesday. Colchester beat Slough Town 4-0 while Wycombe Wanderers' second run of seven consecutive wins this season ended with a 3-1 defeat at Macclesfield Town.

"It's in our hands for the first time for three-and-a-half months," McDonough said. "We'd been scoring goals and winning games but Wycombe always had games in hand. I really think we will go on and win the title now."

Colchester, who have scored 106 goals in 49 matches in all competitions and also kept 26 clean sheets, lead the table because their goal difference is nine goals better than Wycombe's.

Having reached the Vauxhall FA Trophy final, by completing a 4-1 aggregate victory over Macclesfield with a 1-1 draw, Colchester are confident of completing the double by beating Winton A.F.C. at Wembley on May 10.

Their remaining Conference programme includes four matches at Layer Road, starting with Telford United and Merthyr Tydfil over the Easter weekend, when Wycombe are at home to Welling United and Bath City.

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Stark: outstanding

McDonough was cut above an eye in a clash of heads in the first minute of the match against Slough but did not leave the field until after he had made the breakthrough in the 58th minute with a typical headed goal. He later had four stitches in the wound.

His replacement, Mike Masters, an American, scored a fine individual goal, after outstripping the Slough defence in a run from his own half, and Ian Stewart, the former Northern Ireland international, capped an outstanding display on the wing by laying on a goal for Mark Kinsella and also scoring himself.

McDonough said the town has "gone mad" at the prospect of a twin triumph and the club has raised £20,000 towards the £100,000 target of a "Back to the League" appeal.

"I've been to see the chairman about five times and he's talked a lot about budgets," McDonough said. "I hope the players can be offered decent rather than ridiculous money. If we can keep this side together, we will do well in the fourth division."

Top of the table

Colchester 36 29 9 4 78 22 78
Wycombe 35 28 9 4 78 22 78
Kettering 37 18 11 8 81 42 68
Telford 37 18 7 12 55 36 61

REMAINING MATCHES: Colchester: Today: Telford (h), April 20; Merthyr Tydfil (a), April 22; Kettering (h), April 22; Welling (a), April 22; Telford (a), April 23; Redbridge Forest (h), April 23; Welling (a), April 25; Macclesfield (a), April 26; Kettering (a), May 2; Bath City (a), May 2; Welling (a), May 2; Winton A.F.C. (a), May 2; Wembley (h), May 10.

Setting the limits of greatness

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

Arazi's bid for greatness was sharpened in the pale, early-morning sunshine of Lamorlaye, just outside Chantilly, yesterday, when he worked for the first time this year on an American-style training ground.

Memories of Churchill Down and Breeders' Cup day five months ago were irresistible as he glided round the tightly-cornered, seven-furlong replica of Aqueduct, swept past two pacemakers with spine-tingling ease, and completed the mile-and-a-quarter gallop to the delight of his trainer, Francois Boutin.

Next Sunday the "wonder horse", who has gripped the imagination of the racing world, crosses the Atlantic in search of further glory in the Kentucky Derby.

If he wins the Kentucky Derby and the Epsom Derby, which is something out of the ordinary and has never been done, he would become the greatest of all time. If he does achieve that, which is seen as being almost impossible, he would have to be considered, as least as good as or perhaps superior to the others," he said.

In a trice, the farmer's son from Normandy has pinpointed the recipe for greatness — and the potential problem.

Allen Paulson, who sold

half of Arazi to Shaikh

Hammond for \$3 million be-

fore the Breeders' Cup

triumph, is keen to go for

the US Triple Crown,

consisting of the Kentucky Derby,

the Preakness Stakes

and the Belmont Stakes,

and its \$5 million bonus.

However, the Dubai defence minister is desperate to run Arazi in the Epsom Derby.

Paulson and Shaikh Mo-

hammed agreed Boutin

will be a fight. They are two

gentlemen and sportsmen.

They will talk it over after

the Kentucky Derby."

Boutin added: "The first

thing we have to do is win

the Kentucky Derby. After-

wards ... well, it has always

been my dream to win the

Derby at Epsom."

However, he stresses:

"Any decision has to be taken

in the interests of the

owners, the horse and the

people who work with the

horse and nothing can be

decided obviously until

the Kentucky race."

"If I have a solution to

propose, it will be the best

solution for everyone in-

volved, especially the

American journalists."

for the third race, he could be fed up."

Looking back, Boutin knew that Arazi was something out of the ordinary in February last year and a "super" horse by August.

The greatest quality Arazi possesses is his heart, closely followed by excellent vision and a well-balanced nervous system. Boutin jokingly said his own nerves were equally sound and had enabled him to cope, even enjoy, the enormous pressure stemming from Arazi. Like a Pied Piper, he was followed during the morning training session by another team of American journalists.

Boutin's greatest worry came during the winter months following the knee operations which kept Arazi on the sidelines for two months. "He didn't start working again until February 15. It was difficult and I was only reassured that he was returning to his form 10 days before his comeback race earlier this month at Saint-Cloud."

The 55-year-old trainer must be diplomatic. The stakes are high, possibly the highest. But I sense increasingly we will see Arazi at Epsom on the first Wednesday in June.



Apple of his eye: Francois Boutin keeps a close watch on Arazi, ridden by his lad Raymond Lamoura.

will arbitrate if they could not agree. Significantly, Emmanuel de Seroux, racing manager to Paulson in France, was on hand to watch Arazi yesterday, and

commented: "I think it would be very difficult for the trainer to make the call. In theory, but in practice I think the owners will agree. I don't think there

will be a fight. They are two

gentlemen and sportsmen.

They will talk it over after

the Kentucky Derby."

Boutin added: "The first

thing we have to do is win

the Kentucky Derby. After-

wards ... well, it has always

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volved, especially the

American journalists."

Boutin knows that the Triple Crown schedule is a lot to ask. "It is difficult to leave this horse for six weeks in America. It will be hard for the horse to retain his morale. If you compare the difference in the two places, it is so great. It may not affect him for the second race, but

Boutin's greatest worry came during the winter months following the knee operations which kept Arazi on the sidelines for two months. "He didn't start working again until February 15. It was difficult and I was only reassured that he was returning to his form 10 days before his comeback race earlier this month at Saint-Cloud."

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Waterfowl Creek to shine again

THE Bonusprint Masaka Stakes' at Kempton today seems unlikely to have any direct bearing on the 1,000 Guineas since Armarama is the only runner in today's field still holding the classic engagement, and she looks out of her depth.

But Geoff Wragg, the trainer of Marlino, currently second favourite for the fillies' classic, will derive encouragement for her if he wins today's trial with her stable companion Waterfowl Creek.

A winner already this season at Warwick, the rider of Waterfowl Creek, is also looking to another winning ride on Eazond in his nine races, starts a fresh campaign by contesting the

Creek will not fall on grounds that she is unfit or because she cannot go on the ground.

As for her ability to cope with this step up in class, she was made favourite first time out on the strength of what she had shown at home to beat Juniper Berry, which she did in some style.

Juniper Berry, by winning the Geoffrey Barling Stakes at Newmarket on Wednesday, has just paid her a timely compliment.

While Paul Eddery, the rider of Waterfowl Creek, is also looking to another winning ride on Eazond in his nine races, starts a fresh campaign by contesting the

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

think that Subsonic will prove too good for Star Quest, his mount in the Queen's Prize.

Subsonic is trained by John Dunlop, who has been eyeing today's prize all winter, since he considers him to be still acceptably rated even though he won five times last season.

At Haydock, Paris House, who did so well for Jack Berry last season when winning six of his nine races, starts a fresh campaign by contesting the

Beamish Irish Stout Field Marshal Stakes.

In this instance, though, I prefer Noddy, who did not get the best of runs at Doncaster where he was just pipped by Paris House's stable companion Fyde Flyer. He later upheld the form at Newmarket on Tuesday when he won the Aberman Stakes, in which Sir Harry Hardman finished third.

Iacheallock also looks a good bet to win the Matthew Peacock Maiden Stakes, judged on the promise that he showed last year in a race won at Newbury by Aljaideen.

My idea of today's best bet, though, is Sagebrush Roller to win the St John Ambulance Handicap at Newcastle.

His trainer, Bill Watts, said of his four-year-old son of Sharp: "If he ever gets in a big handicap and the ground is really heavy, he will take some beating."

Sagebrush Roller, earmarked for the Victoria Cup at Ascot, is clearly a horse who comes to hand easily because, significantly, the only race he won last year was also first time out over today's course and distance when the going was also heavy.

FORM FOCUS

CONFORTER 23 9th of 17 to Amico in Newbury (1m, good to soft) handicap with SALSINOS 416 11th; last season Best Colours 61 in 20-runner (1m, soft) maiden.

MOROCCO 22 10th of 12 to Sire 2 in 2-runner (1m, soft) handicap with SALSINOS 416 11th; last season Best Colours 61 in 20-runner (1m, soft) handicap with SALSINOS 416 11th.

Sovereign Rock in Warwick (2f, soft) handicap with EXALMATINA 12th; **DOUBLE BLUE** best fighter Squashes 7 in 17-runner Pointsett (2f, soft) handicap. **DUITY** 22 10th of 12 to Best Colours 61 in 20-runner (1m, soft) handicap with SALSINOS 416 11th; last season Best Colours 61 in 20-runner (1m, soft) handicap with SALSINOS 416 11th.

TRUTHFUL 20th 20th of 14 to Early Star in Southwell (1m, soft) handicap with SALSINOS 416 11th; last season Best Colours 61 in 20-runner (1m, soft) handicap with SALSINOS 416 11th.

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Twickenham awaits Cornish invasion

Daunting test for much-changed Lancashire team

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AMID the euphoria that now surrounds Cornwall's appearances in the ADT county championship final, and the difficulties that encumbered Lancashire's selection for the game at Twickenham today, it is easy to forget that, strictly in terms of ability, there should be little between the sides.

The county final exists on a warm wave of emotion, thanks to Cornwall, whose third final in four years this will be and who seem to bring with them the entire duchy. Were it not so, the game would be seen for what it should be: an occasion for players whose rugby is, by and large, played outside the top 20 of the Courage Clubs Championship and attracting some six or seven thousand to Twickenham.

But any sport should have room for the naked emotion that the Cornish bring with them. Instead of Twickenham,

ham's rafters echoing to the occasional cry of encouragement, they will be ranted by the deep-throated roar of over 50,000 and jangle to the music of the Falmouth Marine Band. "I honestly believe that it could not be more inspirational playing in front of a home international crowd," Glyn Williams, the Cornwall captain, said.

"Rugby is what gets us noticed nationally. It is the big topic of conversation and players experience local fame by being waylaid in the streets for a chat about the final. County pride enabled us to pull off that amazing win last season."

That was the extra-time victory over Yorkshire, which gave Cornwall their second championship — the first having come in 1908. But while the black-and-gold hordes have been moving steadily east against the tide of Easter holidaymakers,

Lancashire, tradition apart — they have won the title 14 times, most recently in 1990 — have the additional incentive of a unique treble: their colts have already won their county championship and their under-21 XV hopes to beat Surrey in the curtain-raiser to the senior final.

Lancashire have been reshaping their XV after the withdrawal of 11 of the players who helped them to semi-final success against Hampshire last month.

Perhaps they should not have relied so heavily on Orrell in the first place. It is Orrell's first division match against Harlequins on Monday that has forced the issue.

But it would have been more in keeping with the nature of the competition to have chosen players who do not receive the exposure the first division club game offers.

Nonetheless, they can call on players from second division clubs — which is more than Cornwall can — and the top of the third.

"Many of the players are new to top-flight rugby and we must guard against the danger of them freezing when confronted with such a vast crowd," Des Scarbrough, the Lancashire and Orrell coach, said.

Lancashire, tradition apart



Talking tactics: Ruddock irons out technique with the front row, from left, Colclough, Jenkins and Buckett, and Jones at scrum half

Ruddock plots a rise without falls

By GERALD DAVIES

TODAY at St Helens, Swansea will duel for the Heineken League championship, a fair indicator of consistency, with their West Welsh neighbours from across the Louher River, Llanelli. This, if you understand the chauvinism of the "Jacks" and the "Spanians", is the big one. For Mike Ruddock, though, it is just another challenge in a season full of them.

This season has seen a change at Swansea, under the coaching of Ruddock, their flanker from the mid-Eighties. There was a time recently when a superlative Swansea performance, of a kind which they alone in Wales were capable, served only to guarantee that the rest of the month could be written off. The best was inevitably followed by a period of inexplicable mediocrity.

Swansea? Oh, they blow hot and cold, consistent only in their inconsistency was the conclusion. You buys

your ticket and you takes your chance.

This season is only Llanelli, for one week, and Pontypool, for three, at the beginning of the year who have interrupted Swansea's rule atop the first division. They have been in the lead, two since November and from February have occupied the No. 1 slot. If this shows they have not had it in their own way, it also shows a unity of purpose. Those errant stamps in form seem to have evaporated.

If Swansea are putting into place the kind of support structure — youth development plans, sports science techniques, reorganised committees and so on — which makes for better planning and efficiency, their immediate success is put down to the return of Ruddock as coach.

How has he managed it? Even a rugby coach, it seems, cannot do without paperwork nowadays. This is where it began for him.

"Before the season

I asked the players to answer a simple questionnaire. Could they put down Swansea's strength and weaknesses. Could they suggest where things might improve. What should be Swansea's actual style of play? That kind of thing.

"It was important, for them, especially for the senior players, to make their contribution. In that way we could achieve common ground, a strategy could be formed, and we all could understand the problems on how we, together, were to attain our goals."

Ruddock had been away

from the club since he fractured his skull and three of his vertebrae in an accident as a linesman for the Electricity Board in 1985. He returned to Blaina in Gwent, coached them for a couple of seasons before going to Cross Keys for another two. He then spent a year coaching Bective Rangers in Ireland, where his wife came from.

Ruddock, nevertheless,

carries the pressure of his task lightly. "People talk about the stress which accompanies a successful team. It is one I enjoy. I've got quality players at my disposal. And to see the likes of Gibbs, Clement, Tidey and Davies, for example, beaming after a particularly successful move gives a great uplift."

"I could easily have stayed in Dublin. But I have a strong affinity for Swansea and that was the reason I returned," he says. In his first year, he has succeeded beyond his imaginings.

What their consistent league position does not

portray is that Swansea have played the kind of rugby by which the grimacing competitiveness of the league is meant to deny.

They have scored 51 tries.

Their rugby still has a

refreshing tendency to adventure.

"Ruddock encourages but emphasises it is the quality of judgment that ensures success."

Failure has not been a

stranger, either, this season.

"When we lost to Pontypool and Bridgend, it forced me to sit back. But it was my job to set things right, to learn from the details, review our style and get things on the right tracks again."

The significant steps?

"The players believe in

themselves and as long as

we take the right options,

everything will be fine.

The players know when and how to strike."

Today is another yard-

stick. Swansea have not

beaten Llanelli in the last 11

outings. Ruddock, you can

bet, will not consider 12.

TWICKENHAM TEAMS

CORNWALL: K. Thomas (Redruth), A. Mead (Redruth), C. Latty (Neath), M. Brain (Clynn), D. Williams (Cardiff), W. Parsons (Cardiff), J. Williams (Cardiff), J. May (Redruth), B. Andrew (Redruth), R. Keast (Redruth), G. Williams (Redruth), captain, A. Reed (Bath), A. Cook (Bath), D. Williams (Prestonpans), D. Atkinson (St Ives), M. Jackson (Fylde), G.

Reference: E. Morrison (Bath).

Evans to coach Cardiff

By GERALD DAVIES

CARDIFF are expected to announce next week that Alec Evans will be their coaching organiser from next season. He was assistant to Alan Jones, the coach of the Australian grand slam winning team of 1984.

Although Evans has been reported as saying from Bristol that he is looking forward to taking up the appointment, no statement has yet emerged from Cardiff.

This is the worst period in Cardiff history. Having suffered upheavals with the loss of their coach, Alan Phillips, and removed John Scott, their manager, as surplus to requirements, they have won only two of 13 matches this term and lie second from bottom in the Heineken League first division.

With the announcement by the International Rugby Football Board on Thursday that Terry Holmes, after playing rugby league for Bradford Northern, had been reinstated as an amateur, the former scrum half has made it clear that, if asked, he would like to rejoin Cardiff in a coaching capacity.

Barbarians bow to the leagues

By DAVID HANDS

EVEN traditional Easter purists have been invaded by the ubiquitous leagues. The Barbarians may cut their attractive swathe through Wales today but more eyes may be on Swansea v Llanelli than on Cardiff, while post-ponees have given the West Country two first division fixtures.

The Barbarians field 11 internationals against Cardiff, including Toshiyuki Hayashi, of Japan, Glen Ennis, of Canada, and Kevin Swords, the lock who took over the leadership of the United States to such good effect during the World Cup.

The greater league battle comes on Monday, when Harlequins entertain an Orrell side still stunned by a last-second defeat against Wasps last weekend. Mike White, the Wasps flanker, celebrates his 100th game against Leicester on Monday.

Orrell must win convincingly if they are to maintain their pursuit of Bath. They travel south tomorrow with Sean Gallagher restored to No. 8 and Chris Brierley standing by if Bob Kimmings cannot take his place in the second row.

Harlequins have responded by putting out their best

available team, which includes their international midfield and Brian Moore at hooker. Simon Dear makes his league debut at lock and David Pearce moves to full back with Paul Challinor at stand-off half.

Swansea v Llanelli

Swansea are short of six regulars, four in the backs and two, including Ian Smith, the captain, in the pack. Steve Williams, the scrum half, and Lewis Williams, the stand-off, are without Woodland and Llozowski at stand-off for the injured Davies and Chidiebunze to centre.

Gloucester v Wasps

Gloucester are short of six regulars, four in the backs and two, including Ian Smith, the captain, in the pack.

Steve Williams, the scrum half, and Lewis Williams, the stand-off, are without Woodland and Llozowski at stand-off for the injured Davies and Chidiebunze to centre.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

Courage Championship

First division

Bristol v L. Irish

Paul Hull returns to Bristol at full back but Blackmore (lock), Davis (hooker), Latty (wing) and the fitnesse test. The two sides are without Geoghegan (wing) and return Burns at centre.

Gloucester v Wasps

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Steve Williams, the scrum half, and Lewis Williams, the stand-off, are without Woodland and Llozowski at stand-off for the injured Davies and Chidiebunze to centre.

GOLF

Langer survives a scare

From JOHN HENNESSY IN RABAT

BERNHARD Langer, by a long chalk the best player in the field, walked a tightrope of uncertainty on the second day of the Moroccan Open championship at the Dar es Salam course here yesterday. He came in with a second-round 76 and, at eight over par, had to wait several hours before he knew he would be called to the first tee today.

It would have been humiliating had he missed the cut, given the weakness of the field. Many of the leading players have avoided Rabat, so that not only is there a lack of quality but also numbers.

With no run on the ball, the Trent Jones-designed monster course played every inch of its 7,224 feet, save where a few forward tees were mercifully in use. Even so, Langer has yet to reach a par five in two shots. All this, together

with greens of variable pace, presented an examination of golf and character.

Langer's holing out, in his own words, "was awful." It was imperative for his peace of mind, as well as his score, to get the ball close, and a series of four-footers put a heavy strain on his renowned equanimity.

The guillotine fell on 154, ten over par, so Langer can breathe again. Fredrik Lindgren is the leader on 142 (74 yesterday). Ricky Wilson, still holder of the English amateur championship, lies joint fifth on 145.

For the one birdie at the short 9th never threatened; he took two again from that distance to drop shots at the 10th and 11th; and he missed another birdie at the 12th. By now, he was threatening, and eventually inflicting, GBH on the turf in frustration.

He eventually trickled one in from 25 feet downhill at the 14th, but gave the shot back with yet another failure from four feet at the 16th. Finally, a slice of luck at the

Wigan content to cruise

By KEITH MACKIN

EVEN when Wigan are on a tight rein, they have speed and power to spare over other teams. Certainly, they had plenty in hand at Knowsley Road, where the expected fierce challenge from St Helens only materialised in the last 15 minutes and in occasional early spasms.

These moments of St Helens fire and brimstone were invariably ruined by the sloppy handling which has characterised their Challenge Cup games against Wigan, and the spate of knock-ons by the home side made Wigan's task the easier.

The champions did no more than was necessary to win and maintain the relentless progress towards another double of cup and league, and possibly a treble if they choose to pursue the premiership instead of leaving it to others as a consolation prize.

Wigan rested on their laurels, and at last St Helens made an attack count. Hunt fumbled the ball backwards behind his own line, but made a virtue out of his error by turning round and catching the Wigan pursuers unaware. He sped 70 metres down the right wing before

moving the ball inside for Bishop to dive over under the post. Wigan, as ever, decided to have the last word, with Botica landing a late penalty.

The result and pattern of play were a disappointment to the St Helens followers in the crowd of 14,699, who had hoped for a much closer game and a morale-boosting victory to spearhead an attempt on the premiership from second place in the table.

As for Wigan, they continue to give the impression that they can find an extra gear whenever danger threatens, and, in the second half, they were able to remove Gregory without noticeable loss of confidence or skill.

SCORERS: St Helens: Try: Bishop, Goss, Loughnane, Williams, G. Edwards, A. Hunt, T. Ropati, P. Longman, C. Doherty, J. Williams (2), P. Verry, P. Barnes, K. Ward, B. Dwyer, S. Edwards, J. Jackson (2), J. Forsey, G. Williams, S. Cooper. Wigan: T. Hunt, F. Botica, D. Bell, A. Miles, J. Williams, F. Williams, J. Green, G. Edwards, A. Bishop, K. Sherratt, M. Darmont, A. Potts, D. Bishop, B. McGinley (2), N. Crotty, G. Williams, J. Smith (2 tries).

Referee: J. Smith (Wigan).

Results, page 31

Ronson inspires Hull to important victory

By KEITH MACKIN

HULL chose one of the toughest games of the season, the traditional holiday derby against Hull Kingston Rovers, to ease their way out of relegation difficulties. They won 12-8 at New Craven Park with two tries from Ronson, their Australian centre and two goals from Eastwood.

Warrington hit Widnes with 11 points in the last ten minutes to beat their neighbours 19-8. The sides were level when Bateman grabbed an interception try and, as Widnes wilted, Kenyon ran over for another to maintain Warrington's hopes of gaining a top-four place.

Dereux continued his excellent form for Widnes by scoring all his side's points with a try and two goals. But on this form, Widnes will struggle to make any sort of impact on the Premiership, which has been a prime target for the Naughton Park.

Leigh have a vastly superior

points difference to Oldham, but their defence collapsed against Sheffield Eagles recently, and another defensive failure could allow Oldham to gain the 39 points necessary to overhaul them.

Sheffield Eagles are already promoted, and will be presented with the second division championship trophy if, as expected, they win their home fixture against relegated Ryedale York tomorrow.

Chance to play a round with Forsbrand

TO signal its continued sponsorship of the Volvo European Golf Tour, and of the Volvo PGA championship at Wentworth from May 22 to 25, the Swedish car manufacturer today teams with The Times to offer three places alongside leading professionals in a special Swedish golf day.

America³ and New Zealand favourites to win final selection trials and contest America's Cup

Conner puts his cunning to the test

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

NEW Zealand and America³ go into the final selection trials this weekend as clear favourites to contest the America's Cup.

After four months of grueling racing, the "red wonder from down under", skippered by Rod Davis, has dominated the challenger trials, winning 25 of her 30 encounters against seven other contestants. By comparison, Il Moro di Venezia, her Italian rival skippered by Paul Cayard, has a record of 21 wins and nine losses, with four of the defeats inflicted by the New Zealanders. The two yachts meet in a best-of-nine final starting tomorrow.

On the defender's front, Bill Koch's America³ has a record of eight wins and three losses against Dennis Conner's ageing Stars & Stripes. Koch, one of the wealthiest men in the United States, has only eight years of sailing experience behind him and has helped Conner, the four-time cup winner, shorten the odds by insisting on steering his yacht for much of the time.

"I wish I had Dennis' luck and my money," Koch said ruefully after Conner's Stars & Stripes beat Kanza, his latest yacht, against all the odds in a cliff-hanger of a race last Monday.

Koch was bitterly disappointed by that result, which saw Conner edge through. He has spent the best part of \$65 million of his own money to dethrone Conner as king of the America's Cup. Had he won, then these finals would have been an all-Koch affair with America³ facing Koch's new yacht, Kanza, which proved competitive only in stronger winds. The defender final, run over the best of 13 races, begins today.

Conner is banking largely on the weather and his own skills to win through to contest the cup for a record sixth time. He has exploited Koch's predilection for steering by optimising his boat for light airs. "I'll take between 6 and 7 knots and a lot of fluency," the San Diegan, who has the strong advantage of sailing in his own back waters, said. It is in these conditions that Conner shows his mastery and when Koch's money counts for very little.

In stronger winds and rougher waters, however, America³ holds a distinct advantage, unless Koch is at the wheel. Then, Conner is relying on the fact that pride may be hard to swallow and Koch will not hand over to his more

able No. 2, Buddy Melges, until it is too late.

The weather could also decide the outcome of the challenger final. New Zealand is as radical in design as Alan Bond's 1983 wing-keel cup winner, Australia II. This novel Bruce Farr design is smaller and lighter by some 3,000kg than her German Frenz drawn rival, Il Moro di Venezia. Her one drawback is that she also carries 40sq metres less sail area, which has proved a disadvantage in light airs.

Cayard suggests that the New Zealand challenge is at its best over flat waters when the winds are between 9 and 11 knots. He believes that his own Italian charger has an advantage at the two extremes of the wind range and in choppy conditions.

"We are pretty confident in all wind strengths," Sir Michael Fay, New Zealand's syndicate head, countered. "We've beaten Il Moro when the winds were 18 knots and when it was very light." he said yesterday.

Peter Blake, New Zealand's project director, was more candid. "We had a weakness in very light airs during the first round, but we've addressed that now by sailing the boat differently," he said. This optimisation is believed to centre around the unique tandem keel.

The two ballast-supporting vertical foils, situated at the fore-and-aft extremities of the yacht's lead bulb, rotate individually to steer the otherwise rudderless hull. The size and shape of these rotating foils are designed to exploit a 12kg tolerance within the rules and can be changed overnight to suit the predicted weather conditions for the following race.

"It's a novel arrangement," one designer said. "They have the option of reducing wetted area and drag for light airs, or changing the balance of the boat just by the size of the two rudders."

Technology aside, races are just as likely to be decided by crew attitudes and mistakes.

The New Zealanders, who have been training off San Diego for two years, are determined and confident. By contrast, the Italian element within the Il Moro camp, whose mistakes have cost them several races along the way, appear happy just to have made the finals. Whether the American, Cayard, can instill in his troops the will to win before tomorrow remains an open question.



Master of his craft: Conner must use his supreme skills and local knowledge to have a winning chance

Defender finals

Stars & Stripes (Dennis Conner) v America³ or Kanza (Rod Davis). Best of 13 races from April 18 to May 2. Lay-days, April 21 and 27.

Star & Stripes

Syndicate head: Dennis Conner. Club: San Diego YC, US. Skipper: Dennis Conner. Designer: Bruce Whidden. Designer: Bruce Newland. David Partridge, Dr Alberto Calderon. Budget: \$16 million. Record: won 13, lost 18.

Conner's campaign remains short of form. What he has left in the way of form is being used to new sails and optimising Stars & Stripes for light airs. If it blows, then so do his chances. But if conditions are fickle, then Conner's wizardry at the wheel could become a deciding factor.

America³

Syndicate head: Bill Koch. Club: San Diego YC, US. Skipper: Dennis Conner. Designer: Paul Cayard. Designer: Andreas Jørgensen. Designer: Dr Jerry Milgram. Doug Peterson, Dr Helmut Mäder. Budget: \$85 million. Record: won 17, lost 5.

Conner's team has had a quiet start to the America's Cup final and had planned to use the series to test and tune his two yachts.

Conner's late run of victories has upset that. The challengers are happy to see Koch's plan broken but are equally determined that Conner will then select a Koch boat to defend the cup.

It is likely that the Italian team will be forced to sail in the same boat as Conner.

Il Moro di Venezia (Il Moro) v New Zealand (Rod Davis). Best of nine races from April 19 to 20. Lay-days, April 21 and 27.

Challenger finals

New Zealand (Rod Davis) v Il Moro di Venezia (Paul Cayard). Best of nine races from April 19 to 20. Lay-days, April 21 and 27.

New Zealand

Syndicate head: Sir Michael Fay. Club: Mercury Bay Boating Club, NZ. Skipper: Rod Davis. Designer: David Partridge, Dr Alberto Calderon. Budget: \$16 million. Record: won 25, lost 25.

This is New Zealand's third tilt at the cup and their experience shows. They have the best record and have finished ahead of Il Moro di Venezia in five of their last six encounters. Her unique keel/rudder system is one winner/rudder system that allows her to turn sideways to the boat's slow movement, which the Italians will try to exploit during the starts.

Il Moro di Venezia

Syndicate head: Paul Gardini. Club: Compagnie delle Vele, Italy. Skipper: Paul Cayard. Designer: Tommaso Chieffo. Designer: Germano Frenz. Budget: \$44 million. Record: won 21, lost 8.

Il Moro's team has had a much more personal crusade for Paul Gardini as it is for the Italians. The campaign has generated enormous interest in Italy and Il Moro di Venezia has fitted in a line of yachts built to specification for the cup, if the crew catch the high fever, then their chances increase.

Maintaining the position

Ireland excel in China classic

FROM MALCOLM MCKEAGH IN HONG KONG

FIFTY-four yachts set off from here yesterday on the 650-mile Corum China Sea race from Hong Kong to Manila. The race is, along with the Fastnet and Sydney-Hobart, one of the classics of traditional ocean racing and a race that every offshore racer worth his salt has to do, at least once, in a lifetime, not so much for its toughness as for its fast warm-wind sailing and the promise of flying fish for the sailors.

It is also now part of the Champagne Mumm World Cup, which is being sailed wholly in the Pacific this year and in which Ireland is second, an unlikely result geographically but one by virtue of the team's skill and determination.

The favourite to reach Manila first is Ptey Weatherill's 65-foot Frers design, Mamamouche, which has a course record of 79hr 23min 13sec to beat.

Whatever the outcome, Ireland's participation does, at least, make chartering a strong team for the Kenwood Cup in Hawaii in August a worthwhile proposition.

The favourite to reach Manila first is Ptey Weatherill's 65-foot Frers design, Mamamouche, which has a course record of 79hr 23min 13sec to beat.

Maintaining the position

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League First division

Chelsea v QPR

Coventry v Everton

Crystal Palace v Oldham

Leeds United v Southampton (all ticket)

Liverpool v Aston Villa (all ticket)

Manchester City v West Ham

Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa

Sheffield United v Arsenal

Southampton v Sheffield Wednesday

Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham

Wolverhampton Wanderers v Liverpool

Wimbledon v Nottingham Forest

Second division

Barnsley v Tranmere

Blackburn Rovers v Leicester

Bristol City v Ipswich

Burnley v Watford

Cardiff City v Sunderland

Middlesbrough v Plymouth

Newcastle v Millwall

Oxford v Bristol Rovers

Swindon Town v Wolves

Third division

Birmingham v Hartlepools

Bradford v Reading

Bristol City v Ipswich

Bury v Stockport

Exeter v Peterborough

Leeds United v Fulham

Sheffield Wednesday v Birmingham City

Southampton v Millwall

Southend United v Chesterfield

Swindon Town v Walsall

Third division

Barnsley v Hartlepools

Bradford v Reading

Bristol City v Ipswich

Bury v Stockport

Exeter v Peterborough

Leeds United v Fulham

Sheffield Wednesday v Birmingham City

Southampton v Millwall

Southend United v Chesterfield

Swindon Town v Walsall

Fourth division

Barnet v Gillingham

Carlisle United v Northampton

Coventry v Luton Town

Crewe v Scunthorpe

Herford v Walsall

Madstone v Rotherham

Rochdale v Bury (all ticket)

Wrexham v York

GM Vauxhall Conference

Barrow v Kidderminster

Bath v Kettering

Cheltenham v Altrincham

Colchester v Telford

Farnborough v Galeshead

Merthyr v Witton

Midlands v Shrewsbury

Wynnewood v Wrexham



Bacher: won his point

MAKE a note of the name. Lalama Masikazana may become the first important South African Test wicketkeeper since the all-white days of Dennis Lindsay and before him John Waite. Today's historic, inaugural Test match at Kensington Oval is the present; the future will include the likes of Masikazana.

South Africa's under-19 team, including Masikazana, beat its Barbados counterparts, the future of West Indian cricket, by 47 runs in a one-day match on Thursday. None could have been more enthusiastic than the local spectators, who know as much about the game as Headington or Sydney's Hill ever did.

"My taxi-driver, observing no more than a couple of balls as he delivered me to the Wilsey sports club ground, said casually: 'I see the ball isn't movin' today.'

"We're all known each other from the national training weeks going back to 1989," he said.

"The mood is great. Everyone speaks English, but we're ripping [teasing] each other all the time

SA under-19s beat Barbados

South Africa's under-19s hit 249, the top scorers being Kenneth Muluwa, from Eastern Province, with 77, and Herschel Gibbs, who has already played in the Currie Cup at 17, with 69. Quinton Still, one of only four whites in the squad, hit 48 in an opening partnership of 110 with Muluwa, the fourth time in four matches on tour that they have put on 50 or more.

Still from Selborne School in East London and the tour's top scorer, is a part of the face of the new South Africa.

"We're all known each other from the national training weeks going back to 1989," he said.

"The mood is great. Everyone speaks English, but we're ripping

Xhosa, Afrikaans and English. There are not hundreds but thousands of blacks with talent."

Masikazana, from the Port Elizabeth township of New Brighton and with a smile as wide as a water melon, is one of them.

His game began as a nine-year-old in street cricket on concrete with a wire netting back-stop. He and his two cousins played for the Wide Awake street club, and because the others made fun of his bowling, he took to wicket-keeping. Without gloves.

"At the age of 11, he was playing for the under-16s against other street-club blacks. In 1985, the Wide Awake seniors, because the black game was deteriorating, started playing in white leagues,

never mind the political slogan

"no normal sport in an abnormal society". Then the threats started.

"The seniors had to stop because they couldn't take it [the intimidation from the SA Council of Sport]," Masikazana recalls.

"I was introduced to the Port

Elizabeth schools week by a black

education worker in the townships, and in 1986 I played for Eastern Province under-15 [a mixed team]. It wasn't acceptable to

to some of our people."

"At that age [12], I couldn't see what was wrong and carried on.

"My father, an official in black schools, knew it was against black policy. Yet he knew that if I was to have a future, I had to get the coaching that he stood in my way, it would hurt me."

Joy of joys, in 1987

Masikazana owned his first pair

of gloves; and the following year,

backed by Adrian Burrell, an

Easter Province coach in the new national development programme, he was playing in a composite township team in a white schools league, and was invited to the annual coaching week at Cape Town.

From there followed, the next year, the Nuffield trials coaching week — "The dream of all boys,"

Masikazana says. He was worried about going to what had previously been an exclusive white gathering, "but Ali Bacher convinced us".

Masikazana made the final selection of 22, and in 1990 he and Muluwa became the first black players to be selected for the Eastern Province Nuffield team.

"We were accepted," he says. "I didn't feel I was black. The whites

recognised what had to happen."

Four months ago, there were four

blacks in the Eastern Province

team, and Masikazana, Gibbs and Morgan Mfobo broke new ground by becoming the first blacks selected for the all-South Africa schools XI.

And so to the West Indies. The first experience abroad has been overwhelming, Masikazana says, showing that South Africa's past does not matter, that foreigners are willing to forgive; that Wesley Hall, now minister of tourism and sport and an avid anti-apartheid campaigner, could now welcome South Africa at a reception on Wednesday "as long as you don't win".

Masikazana sits in the pavilion at ease. "Nobody on this tour feels down because they're black or superior because they're white," he says. "We're one."

Watching this phenomenon in operation, optimism for South Africa's future must be immense.

West Indies have upper hand in historic Test match

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

IRRESPECTIVE of the drama that unfolds on the field, the Test match that starts here today will always be regarded as a milestone in the history of cricket. It is the first Test between West Indies and South Africa, it ends South Africa's 22 years of isolation from Test cricket, and it represents a worldwide seal of approval as apartheid continues to be dismantled.

Nowhere was the racism policy more fiercely condemned than in the Caribbean. Everything has changed, though, with bewildering speed in the past few months. South Africa are now into the third week of a tour that has passed without any disruption and illustrates an extraordinary story of human and political achievement. Today's Test match, far more relevant than any World Cup tie, is the climax of the momentous visit.

Once the tour became possible, first by the approval of the African National Congress and then by each island's government, the ordinary, fanatical cricket enthusiast has never given the political background a thought — something quite predictable in these parts.

Certainly in Barbados it is hardly mentioned, as everyone continues to see the omission of Cummings, of Barbados, from the West Indies squad. It seems inevitable that Richardson, the West Indies captain, will again incur boos and jeers, as he did in Jamaica. Erskine Sandiford, the Barbados prime minister, could also suffer in this way as the teams meet him at a short ceremony planned before the start.

South Africa must hope that Donald, their main fast bowler, can make early inroads into the West Indies batting order and that Kepler Wessels, their determined captain, can build a big score. Wessels played 24 Tests for Australia in the early 1980s and becomes the thirteenth man to play Test cricket for two countries.

The Kensington Oval pitch

invariably yields bounce early on, but recently has tended to play slower and lower as a match progresses.

West Indies have a remarkable record of losing only once in the 26 Test matches played on the ground and have won the last ten tests here.



High hopes: Jeh, the Oxford University opening bowler, spared no effort but could not break a Worcestershire opening partnership of 181 in The Parks

Botham draws full house

BY IVO TENNANT

THE PARKS (first day of three; Oxford University won toss): Worcestershire have scored 221 for one wicket against Oxford University

THERE is no stopping the firsts at Oxford. In the wake of all of Durham's achievements, Adam Seymour made an unbeaten century on his debut for Worcestershire. If it will not be remembered for as long as John Glendenning's innings the previous day, it augers as well for this season.

Seymour left Essex since he was likely to play for them only when Gooch was away with England, in spite of making 157 in one of the few championship matches he was given last season.

Yesterday he was the ideal partner for Curris, the captain, whose game is based upon accumulation. A good two-thirds of Seymour's 20 fours were driven with great vigour.

Otherwise, only Hick had an innings on another cheerless day. Owing to rain and vandalism to protective covering, play did not start until 4.15. Having begun by swinging his second ball from Jeh for four, Seymour collected runs almost at will.

Worcestershire will have a dilemma if Seymour continues to bat like this. Do they leave him out of some one-day matches or move Moody down the order?

Oxford's bowling was enthusiastic, nothing more.

NO play yesterday

PENNERS: Cambridge University v Middlesex

IAN Botham will make his first appearance for Durham in tomorrow's Sunday League match against Lancashire at Durham University.

The England all-rounder was named yesterday in a squad of 14 for Durham's first home match as a first-class county and Tuesday's Benson and Hedges Cup match against Glamorgan at the same venue.

Following Botham's return from a trip to South Africa, Durham became the last of the 18 first-class counties to hold their photocall at which Botham spoke of his determination to keep his place in the England side.

"I'm used to being written off," he said. "But this is a new challenge, and if I play well enough it's down to the selectors. I could not have

done any more at Worcestershire. We won six trophies in five years, and if we do half as well here it will be a major achievement."

"Durham have a lot of youngsters and I hope to pass on my experience along with the rest of the senior players. We could do very well."

Tomorrow's game is certain to be a sell-out. The ground capacity is 6,000 and Durham's membership has reached 5,500, while Lancashire have sold their allocation of 1,000 tickets.

Matthew Maynard, who has been appointed Glamorgan's vice-captain, will lead the side against Warwickshire tomorrow in the absence of Alan Butcher. Warwickshire will be without their England all-rounder, Dermot Reeve, who has suffered a recurrence of the back problem which troubled him during the World Cup and is to see a specialist.

The West Indian all-rounder Franklyn Stephenson will make his debut for Sussex against his former club Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. Stephenson, aged 33, was the leading wicket-taker in each of his four seasons with Nottinghamshire. He has signed a two-year contract for Sussex, who will be without opening batsman Neil Lenham, who has a broken bone in his left hand.

Nottinghamshire, who will have Chris Lewis making his first appearance for them, have doubts about two of their bowlers. Kevin Cooper has a groin injury and Eddie Hemmings a strained calf muscle.

Gatting is, according

to his county's coach, Don Bennett, "batting better than ever". If ability were the only criteria, he would be selected for England instantaneously. Over the last five seasons he has averaged 60 in county cricket, a remarkable achievement. He looks too grey, too wounded, to be only 34, but then he has not led a dull life. As a batsman, he is going to be set up.

So Gatting went to South Africa and returned "relatively" financially secure.

He has, contrary to rumour, been fully paid by the now-defunct South African Cricket Union: that sum plus his 1988 benefit amounted to around £40,000. "But I am not the sort of person who can ever remain idle," he said.

Some of this money has gone towards building a swimming pool at his home in north London. "It was not completed by the promised date and has meant my training has been affected. Fitness is very important to me now. But indoor cricket during the winter sharpened my reflexes and I have used my exercise bicycle every day."

This season will be

Gatting's tenth as Middlesex captain. Only Kim Barnett, of existing leaders,

has led a county side for as

long as that. Having been

champions in 1990, Middlesex finished fifteenth last year.

Gatting, needless to say, is thirsting to revert to winning ways. "Desmond Haynes, John Carr and Gus Fraser are all back and, importantly, I can see young players on our staff

who are going to take the places of older ones."

If Gatting's ban is not

lifted this summer, he will in all probability play Currie Cup cricket in South Africa next winter. He has already had two offers to do so.

Yet politicians and

sportsmen are intent on

approachement. John Major and Graham Gooch are

powerful lobbyists indeed.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather	Temp (5pm)	Last snow
80	good	open	fine	-8	16/4
180	(Powder snow on upper slopes)	60	55 runs and links open		
195	good	open	fine	-8	16/4
160	(Lower runs now in good shape and all complete; 65 links open)				
160	good	open	sunny	-6	16/4
160	(Excellent conditions at all levels, glacier best)				
160	good	open	sunny	-6	16/4
160	(Pistes reported perfect and unfrozen; all lifts and runs open)				
200	good	open	sunny	-9	16/4
200	(A layer of 40cm of fresh snow; 45 lifts and 64 pistes open)				
160	good	open	cloudy	4	16/4
160	(Upper slopes excellent; lower slopes improved; 27 lifts and 47 runs open)				
10	mixed	closed	snow	+2	17/4
20	good	open	snow	-2	17/4
170	good	open	snow	-8	17/4
170	(Good skiing with heavy snow on lower slopes; most lifts open)				
185	mixed	closed	snow	-6	17/4
5	good	closed	snow	+2	16/4
180	good	open	snow	-7	16/4
180	(Upper slopes good; lifts open until April 26)				
70	good	most	snow	-4	17/4
270	good	most	snow	-4	17/4
20	good	some	cloudy	+1	16/4
50	270	good	most	0	17/4
50	270	good	most	0	17/4
120	good	open	cloudy	-7	16/4
120	(Plenty of fresh snow; all runs in excellent condition)				

Supplied by Ski Hotline. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

GYMNASTICS

Redding's progress is halted by injury

FROM PETER AYKROYD IN PARIS

SIX champions are defending their titles in the finals of the first world apparatus championships here today and tomorrow. They are Valeri Belenki (CIS), pommel horse; Wu Ok Yowl (Korea), vault; Li Jing (China), parallel bars; Li Chunyang (China), horizontal bar; and for the women, Lavinia Milosovici (Romania), vault;

Liverpool supporters angry with Souness



BY IAN ROSS

THE future of Graeme Souness as manager of Liverpool could be influenced this afternoon by the mood of supporters in the crowd of 38,000 for the visit of Leeds United to Anfield.

The result of the game will help shape the destiny of the League championship, with Leeds two points behind Manchester United, who have a game in hand. But that matters less to Liverpool than the future surrounding Souness.

As he continues his recovery from a triple heart bypass operation in a Cheshire hospital, the criticism of his dealings with The Sun newspaper shows

no signs of abating. Indeed, what was initially a murmur of discontent at the grass roots has, over recent days, become a wave of indignation.

Merseyside still deeply resents the manner in which The Sun reported the aftermath of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster in which 95 Liverpool supporters lost their lives before the FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest.

A few days after the tragedy, under the headline, "The truth", the paper accused the club's supporters of theft and violent behaviour and suggested that some had urinated on police officers who were tending to the injured and

the dying. The allegations were later withdrawn.

The response of the people of Liverpool was immediate. Copies of The Sun were burned in the streets and some newsagents refused to stock the newspaper.

With the benefit of hindsight, it seems inevitable that Souness, who is in his first full season as the club's manager, will now admit to an error of judgment in entering into a business arrangement with The Sun, despite his insistence that he agreed to deal with the paper only after it had offered to donate an unspecified sum to Liverpool's Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

It could, however, be too

late, for the protests have gathered such momentum and the condemnation of Souness's actions has reached such a pitch that it is being indicated that his position as Liverpool manager seems now to be untenable. Several of those who lost relatives at Hillsborough have contacted the club to demand that Souness either resign or be dismissed.

"Graeme Souness has sunk to the lowest form of life," said Barry Devonside, whose son Christopher, aged 18, perished at Hillsborough. "The quicker he leaves Liverpool and moves away from the area the better."

Les Steele, who lost his son Phillip, has said that

he would seek to remove his son's name from the memorial plaque which stands outside Anfield unless Souness severed his ties with the club.

Souness' credibility was further undermined yesterday, when the Liverpool Daily Post printed a letter which he had sent to Sandra Ireland, a club shareholder, eight months ago in which he promised to instruct his players to have "no contact" with The Sun.

What further alienated the fans from Souness was that he and his girlfriend posed for pictures which The Sun punished on Wednesday, the third anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster.

Meanwhile, Souness

sought to calm turbulent waters by issuing a statement from his hospital bed, in which he insisted that, contrary to popular belief, The Sun had made contact with him on learning of his medical condition from "a third party".

The Liverpool directors are anxious to distance themselves from an increasingly acrimonious row, but there is clearly a feeling of disquiet among the men who appointed Souness 12 months ago.

While a club statement said only that the "comments and complaints" of supporters would be discussed at "the first appropriate time", the fear is that those who feel a sense of anger and betrayal will seek

to make public their discontent during this afternoon's game. And that would surely mean Souness's position, as well as his actions, would become the subject of boardroom debate.

At best, Souness' decision to "play ball" with a

The Sun is being seen in some quarters as foolish and naive. At worst, it was an insensitive blunder by a man whose knowledge of the people among whom his works does not seem to be what it should be.

Souness faces an anxious wait before learning if his own goal precipitates a mild rebuke or something altogether more serious.

Medical report, page 2

Leicester present formidable obstacle

Dalglish calls for players to dig deep to halt slide

BY CLIVE WHITE

KENNY Dalglish will be as popular a figure in Blackburn as Graeme Souness is on Merseyside at the moment if Rovers stumble to their sixth consecutive defeat against Leicester City, one of the emergent forces of the second division, at Ewood Park today.

From looking cast-iron certainties to be granted membership to the Premier League just two months ago when seven points clear, Dalglish's expensively assembled team has inexplicably tumbled to a position where not even a play-off place can be taken for granted. Not that they would feel particularly confident about success in those after a history of recent near misses.

It is hardly the end-of-season scenario Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, can have envisaged when he began pouring his millions into the club last summer. Nor is it quite what Dalglish can have had in mind when he agreed to return to the game he quit at Anfield a year ago because of the intolerable pressure.

There was no sign yesterday, though, of him losing his nerve just yet as he appealed for greater effort. "We have to get passion in our bellies and our hearts pumping to start picking up the results again," he said. "There is no question of us being out of the hunt while it is still a mathematical possibility."

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THE TIMES SPORT

SATURDAY APRIL 18 1992

Clubs may try to force through package deal

Premier League unity is tested by enticing offer

BY PETER BALL

FOOTBALL's new Premier League is being offered a £34 million-a-year package by ITV, a satellite television sports channel and an advertising company.

Offers of sponsorship and overseas sales totalling £16 million a year in support of the ITV bid could provide the greatest test of the unity of the Premier League since the 22 first division clubs signed their letter of intent to leave the Football League last June.

The original ITV offer of £18m a year for exclusive coverage of 30 live matches had been overtaken by the joint BSkyB/BBC bid. But a sponsorship package of a minimum of £40m over four years in return for exclusive rights guaranteed by Dorna UK — whose revolutionary Adime system of revolving advertising boards were a highly visible part of the Rumbelows Cup final — has given the ITV bid extra impetus.

It is supplemented further by the bid from Screensport, the European satellite sports channel, of £6m a year for world rights. The American satellite channel, ESPN, are

part owners of Screensport, and the bid has the added bonus of a weekly match coast-to-coast in the United States.

As a package, that increases the ITV bid in total to around £34m a year, and it is likely to appeal to some chairman whose priority is short-term finance. There are already suggestions that a coterie of clubs will try to force through an ITV deal, with one club threatening to do a separate arrangement if ITV is not looked after. The consequences of that for the Premier League are bleak.

Dorna's bid does not completely depend on ITV acquiring the rights. The Spanish-based company, which has marketed several leading Spanish clubs, including Real Madrid, could undoubtedly sit alongside the BSkyB/BBC bid, but it would offer less money for the more limited terrestrial coverage with smaller audience potential.

"Our figures are based on ITV's bid with 30 matches on a terrestrial channel," Mike Coley, the former marketing director of the Rugby Foot-

Atkinson plans a spending spree

RON Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, is preparing to plunge heavily in the transfer market to build a team to challenge for the Premier League title next season (Chris Moore writes).

With Villa likely to collect as much as £2.25 million if David Platt moves on from Bari, they could end their financial year next month with some £7 million in the bank. If this is not spent, £2.8 million would have to be paid to the Ireland Revenue.

As part of the £5.5 million deal that took Platt from Villa to Bari last summer, it was agreed the British club would receive 50 per cent of any future profit Bari make from selling on the England international. Platt's transfer value almost doubled this week.

When Bari revealed they have been involved in negotiations with Napoli, with a fee of £10 million being discussed, Juventino, AC Milan and Sampdoria are also interested.

Atkinson is over £3 million in profit on his own transfer dealings and if the Platt windfall materialises, he would have the spending power to make offers for Alan Shearer, Southampton's England forward, and the Sheffield Wednesday midfield player, Carlton Palmer.

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, is prepared to reward Atkinson with a job for life at Villa Park. "I have had eight managers in 23 years since I first took the chair and I hope Ron will be my last," Ellis said.

Souness crisis, page 31
 Portsmouth rally, page 31

Nemecek to Toulouse

Toulouse: The French first division club, Toulouse, have signed the Czechoslovak captain, Vaclav Nemecek, from Sparta Prague for £1.6 million.

The Leeds goalkeeper, Mervyn Day, has cut short his loan spell at Luton because he was unhappy with making a 350-mile round trip to play in the reserves.

When she begins to rub shoulders (or tangle legs) with today's Mary Slaney's

Lesson with Leadbetter competition

Win a weekend for two in Orlando, Florida and receive personal one-to-one instruction from David Leadbetter. Fifty videos will be given away as runners-up prizes.

Question 1:
 Which of David's pupils does he refer to as 'my best advertisement'?

Question 2:
 In which year did Leadbetter's famous Scottish pupil win the coveted 'Green Jacket'?

Question 3:
 Which Australian did Leadbetter help to win the 120th Open Championship?

Question 4:
 Which Spanish professional did Leadbetter help back to form in 1991?

Send your answers to all four questions to:
 A Lesson with Leadbetter, Telstar Video, The Studio, 5 King Edward Mews, Byfield Gardens, London SW13 9HP.

Please state whether you would like 'The Swing' or 'The Short Game' video in the event of being a runner-up.



Available at
 all good video stockists.

Courage to beat the count

PROFESSIONAL boxing is, of course, an unrelentingly foul business, but it can still provide the framework for great virtues. This column must not be backward in saluting them when they appear. Greetings, then, to Mike Morrison, a person of courage and character if ever there was one. The Welsh Area Boxing Council refused to renew his licence to box — after all, they argued, his record consists of 29 professional bouts, and 28 defeats.

Morrison appealed to the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC), explaining that many of the decisions had been of minimum one-round margins, and most of these had been home-town decisions. (Why doesn't Morrison have a home town then?) The BBCB came down on his side, adding a few restrictions.

"I am delighted," Morrison said. "Anyone who has seen me fight knows I don't

get banged about, because I train properly." Mark Atkins, a Cardiff chef, has special reason to feel pleased about the decision. He is the only boxer to have been beaten by Morrison. He has called for a rematch.

One of the facts that will astonish most members of the medical profession is that sporting injuries hurt just as much as ordinary ones. Doctors traditionally want us to take more exercise, then glare at us for wasting their time with frivolities like a displaced cartilage. However, I am delighted to report that an old friend of this column, Dr Colin Crosby (who has regarded us with such fascinating sporting problems as nude jello wrestler's ankle and cyclists' impotence), has been taken on as a specialist in sports medicine by Bupa. This is (a) good news for sporting people who can afford Bupa; and (b) a possible encouragement for junior doctors considering a career in sports medicine. There is, Dr Crosby says, a grand total of eight doctors working full-time in sports medicine.

Weighty script

The film *Chariots of Fire* bathed running in a golden glow of romanticism and vicarious nostalgia — pom poppington pom pom, and all that. Now I hear that there are plans afoot to wash the sweaty, grunting sport of weightlifting in the same golden light. Tom McVah, technical adviser on *Chariots of Fire*, has been working on a script about Eugene Sandow, the turn-of-the-century strongman, and an absolutely colossal celebrity. He was, for example, the biggest sponsor of the 1908 Olympic Games, bunging in £1,500. He gave another £1,000 to Shackleton's Antarctic expedition. "It is my firm conviction that few men have done more for England than he," said Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He performed in strong-man competitions and wrestling contests against such foes as Sam

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

son, Cyclops and Professor Atilla. He once sued a lodging house when the ceiling gave way beneath him, and was awarded £4 12s 6d. He drew immense crowds wherever he went, loved and glorified. He was a naturalised Englishman, born a Prussian. All they need, I suppose, is a big man with a funny accent to play the part.

Snowballing
 Last week's piece about a cricketing incident that required four separate umpiring decisions — no-ball, two separate short runs, out — brings a reply from Philip Newman, of the Association of Cricket Umpires. Mr Newman says there should have been five signals. No-ball should have been repeated at the end, in the justifiable fear that the scorer got confused and forgot. Mr Newman adds that he has been required to make



On the nose: Francois Boutin, the trainer, and his wife, Lucy, gaze admiringly at Araxi, the outstanding three-year-old and odds-on favourite to win the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, Louisville, on May 2. Photograph: Stephen Markeon. Report, page 26

Pieterse struggles to peak at Unity Games

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN DAKAR

ZOLA Pieterse returns to international competition after a five-year absence and South African athletics steps out of its 17-year isolation when the Unity Games are held here in Senegal today.

But for her confined four years as a British athlete in the mid-1980s, Pieterse — formerly Budd — would be about to set foot on an international track for the first time.

The 37 other athletes, 11 of them black or Coloured in a South African team picked by World Wide Soccer, the company jointly owned by the independent company, CSI, and the Football League.

Some Premier League officials feel a moral obligation to World Wide Soccer, and there have been moves for Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, to negotiate World Wide Soccer's inclusion, said yesterday.

But it will take more than the Unity Games to fire Pieterse back to her best. She is neither the walf nor the winner she was when she went to Britain on a passport of convenience. Her best time this season for 1,500 metres, the distance she runs today, is 4min 11.15sec — nothing special. She used to complain of being a political pawn. "Now my problem is my running," she said yesterday. "I feel it will get better when the incentives are there." Certainly, she looked as if she could lose a pound or two in weight.

While Meyer boarded the plane in Johannesburg on Wednesday was she convinced that South Africa was the walf as well as her best. She is neither the walf nor the winner she was when she went to Britain on a passport of convenience. Her best time this season for 1,500 metres, the distance she runs today, is 4min 11.15sec — nothing special. She used to complain of being a political pawn. "Now my problem is my running," she said yesterday. "I feel it will get better when the incentives are there." Certainly, she looked as if she could lose a pound or two in weight.

While Meyer could not wait to race Susan Sirana, the Kenyan world champion 3,000 metres bronze medal winner, the voice of international experience next to her at a press conference was less enthusiastic. "The atmosphere you get from athletics in Europe is totally different," Pieterse, aged 25, said. "That is when we will really feel we are back in international athletics."

When she begins to rub shoulders (or tangle legs) with today's Mary Slaney's

when Pieterse will move into top gear. Can she recapture her record-breaking form? "We will have to wait and see." Will she have the motivation? "Yes."

Last year Pieterse ran 3min 35.72sec for 3,000 metres but was well beaten by Meyer. "I have been going through a difficult time with my running," she said.

Had South Africa not looked as though it could be unlocked, she would not be contemplating serious performances again now. "At one time I was not going to run any more," she said. "But then the possibility arose of us running internationally."

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Matthäus injury is a serious blow to Germany

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LOTHAR Matthäus, Germany's World Cup-winning captain, will not play in the European football championships in Sweden in June, according to the national coach Berti Vogts yesterday.

Vogts said that the midfield player, aged 31, who plays for Internazionale in Italy, had a serious knee injury and would not be able to play again this season.

That automatically rules him out of Germany's group games against Scotland, the Netherlands and the CIS, leaving Vogts to fill the void as well as name a new captain.

"That's a serious blow for us," Vogts said shortly after he had talked to Matthäus on the telephone from Milan. "His season is over."

Matthäus tore a ligament in his right knee during a league match last Sunday against Parma.

Arturo Guarino, Inter's doctor, examined the injury on Thursday and said that the player, who has appeared 93 times for the world champions, must not play for seven to eight months.

Although the surgery will keep Matthäus out of Germany's team for the championships which start in Sweden on June 10, Vogts is hopeful that the player will be able to continue his international career. The captain, who led his team to its World Cup winning triumph in Italy two years ago, still figures strongly in Vogts's plans for the defence of the trophy in the United States in two years time.

Other German players in Italy, Rudi Voeller, Thomas Haessler, Juergen Kohler and Stefan Reuter will be watched by Vogts when they appear for their clubs in to-

morrow's Roma-Juventus match. The players will return with Vogts to Frankfurt where the national team is preparing for next Wednesday's friendly international against Czechoslovakia in Prague.

Italian professionals are set to go on strike next weekend in protest at their League's plans to open the frontiers to an unlimited number of EC players.

Sergio Campana, the president of the Italian Association of Professional Players, on Friday threatened an unprecedented strike of his first and second division associates after he failed to come to an agreement about the number of players Italian clubs will be allowed to sign.

Italian clubs, supported by the Professional League and by the Italian soccer Federation, want to sign an unlimited number of players from the European Community, in addition to three from non-European countries.

The Association, which includes internationals such as Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Baggio and Franco Baresi, is opposing the plan on the grounds it would sharply reduce employment of national players.

The row is about the number of players signed as the clubs and the Federation agreed to field a maximum of three non-Italians in league and Cup games. Other foreigners on the clubs' staffs would be sitting on the bench.

A strike of players would cause a serious economic damage to the clubs and the Federation in failed gate receipts and bets on the pools which amount to millions of lire.

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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY APRIL 18 1992

TONY KASPEROWICZ

Britons in their thousands will renew their love affair with France this weekend, but the French say they are getting tired of the invasion. Gillian Tindall reports

It isn't all the fault of Euro Disney or, indeed, Peter Mayle. You might well think, from the Gadarene rush to buy *A Year in Provence*, that Mayle had invented France, as the Beatles were supposed to have invented sex in 1965, or Columbus discovered America in 1492. Not only had France (like sex and America) always been there, it has been a popular British holiday land for a hundred years. However, the British are now enjoying a massive love affair with the place, and particularly with the intimacies of her interior — "secret France", "hidden France", "the real France".

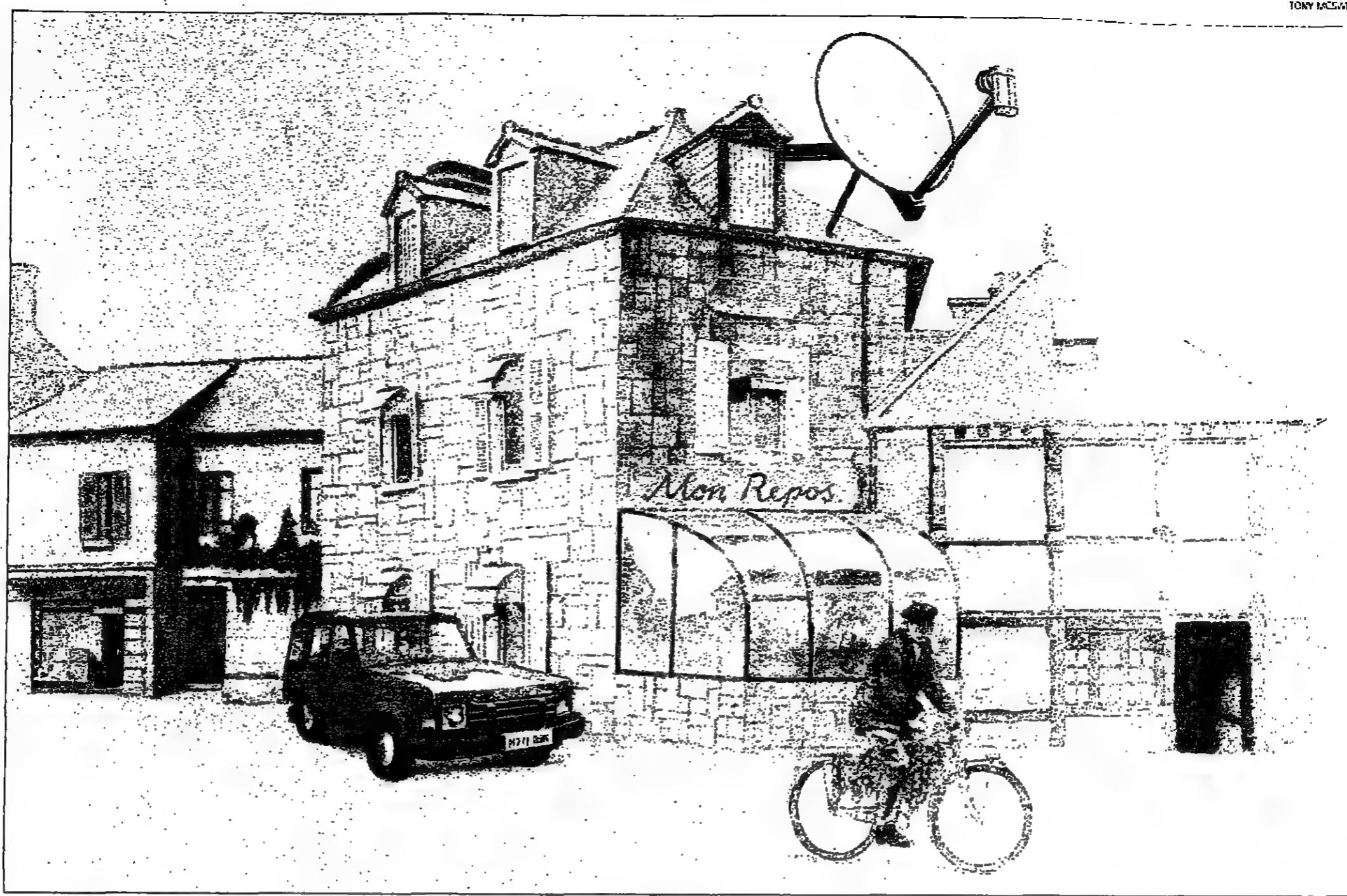
In the past, such a consummation has only been sought by visitors prepared for some personal effort and involvement, equipped with a willingness to embrace the French language and French rural plumbing. But instant "Daisy days in France" and "the Tranquill Lot", both for rent and sale, are now being peddled in newspaper columns and brochures by innumerable do-it-all-for-you agencies, and the traditional trickle of GB cars from the Channel ports has become a convoy.

Five years ago, let alone 20, London Underground did not carry posters advertising rural France as if it were a theme park, nor did the once-modest gîtes companies promote the place with an appeal both to ignorance and snobishness: "If you're looking for karaoke, you won't find it here." Colour supplements did not sell sets of puerile cartoons as "scenes from French rural life", nor did an insurance company put out a poster of a decaying French farmhouse (of all things) as an archetype of domestic security. Neglect and decay, the result of agricultural changes over two generations, are a problem of the French heartlands, and the problem itself now seems to be marked by and for the British as designer chic.

"If there were dreams to sell, what would you buy...?" House purchases in France by foreign buyers have jumped from 2,000 in 1987 to 4,000 in 1988 to 30,000 in 1989. A few of these non-French nationals have probably come from Holland — there was a French row as early as the 1970s about a group of Dutch virtually taking over a village in a mountainous area — but most are thought to be British. Thought, that is, by the French themselves, who are belatedly waking up to the fact that, in spite of the national mania for having everyone on record, no overall figures on foreign ownership have been kept.

From this year, however, the French government has commissioned a general survey from which a register will be compiled, the reason for this being the growing rumble of disquiet in the land about the "English invasion". Is the love affair turning sour? Have we, the English, been taking too much for granted (as usual), the French say? Is *la patrie* once again in danger? If so, let us beware, and remember that the national anthem invokes *aux armes, citoyens!*

A preliminary shot was fired this past winter by member of Le Pen's troop, with the appropriately France-for-the-Gauls name of Le Gallou. "The English," he said, "are slowly rebuilding the Plantagenet empire." One may dismiss this as paranoia (most of the English driving to the Channel ports this summer probably have only the haziest notion that English kings ever ruled chunks of western France; indeed our genial ignorance is one of the things the



Taking it with you: in many a small corner of France there is a place that is forever England, with a cricket team and insensitively converted cottages. Now the French are saying "Enough is enough"

Toujours l'Angleterre

French have against us), but some of what Le Gallou has to say is more sensible.

"When 80 per cent of the population of the Dordogne is English," he said, "then it will not quite be the Dordogne, even if the English there are very amiable." And even if his figure exaggerates, his remark goes to the heart of the 20th-century world problem of

lous house agency. Many of the more remote areas of France do not have such energetic minders looking to their future and, in any case, they arguably need house-buyers, of any nationality, more than Normandy does. Throughout France, it is thought that one in 13 rural dwellings are now uninhabited.

The moral argument (familiar with many parts of Britain) that holiday home-buyers drive up prices beyond the reach of locals, therefore does not work for the more depopulated regions. The phrase "the farmer was only too glad to sell it" is frequently heard on the lips of those English buyers who care enough to want to be seen as the saviours of decaying buildings rather than as speculators. Others, of course, simply drool over "bargains" with all the knowledge and love of France of a stockbroker making a killing.

It is indeed the parts of France where land is cheap that are most vulnerable to the long-term efforts of foreign buyers. No bakers, no woodcutters anymore, no cows, even, in the end, nobody looking after this landscape that is a

precious national asset: just renovated, shunned farmhouses and meadows returning to scrub. French holiday-homers at least appear frequently, usually have family roots in that part of the country, and plan to retire there; they know how the place works. Not so those who have tumbled into it, like Alice down the rabbit hole, from another world and culture hundreds of miles away across the sea.

At this point, I have to declare my own situation. Which is, intermittently, in a very small stone house with a vegetable garden in a village somewhere between the Loire and the Massif Central, which I and my family have owned for nearly 20 years. We do not know of any other English in the area, although we have been told of two families who farm land 100km to the south.

I am painfully aware that, unlike these compatriots, we do not contribute much directly to sustain the intricate and fragile organisation of the French countryside: nevertheless, I have spent much of the past 20 years in the pursuit of assiduous goodness. I feel treacherous each time I return to London, and try to make up for this when I am in France by dissolving myself in the place... years of remembering to go to the butchers' vans for Mme Chose, of sincerely hoping, with farmers True and Machin, that the

cloudless weather would break. I am painfully aware that, unlike these compatriots, we do not contribute much directly to sustain the intricate and fragile organisation of the French countryside: nevertheless, I have spent much of the past 20 years in the pursuit of assiduous goodness. I feel treacherous each time I return to London, and try to make up for this when I am in France by dissolving myself in the place... years of remembering to go to the butchers' vans for Mme Chose, of sincerely hoping, with farmers True and Machin, that the

Years of helping my husband to mix cement while the neighbours offered gratuitous building advice (always received with craven respect)... days of being there on my own in lashing winter rains or paralysing frost, days of listening to the reminiscences of the old and looking up everyone's ancestors for them in the local archive. "Oh, well, we don't count you," a village friend said dismissively when foreign buyers became a rumour even in this unregarded corner: "Vous êtes comme tout le monde."

I realise that not all, or even most, English buyers of holiday homes in France aspire to such an accolade of invisibility. Where, they might well ask,

is the holiday in all that cement-mixing and social responsibility? The soft-edged vision of rural bliss can hardly co-exist with concern about falling lamb prices and school rolls: if you cherish French life to that extent, it becomes, like the toy rabbit in the story, inexorably real, and real-reality (as distinct from the commodity advertised in the flowery brochures) is clearly not wanted by most of those now seeking comfort and views.

Perigord. Luxurious cottage, heated pool, two baths, two beds, scintillating superb." Very nice, I am sure, but what does all this have to do with French countryside or life? It happens to be in France, but it might as well be anywhere. What is being so energetically marketed is not anything particular to France, but just the basic rural dream. It is on the same level as the basic golden sands

dream that has caused the despoliation of coastlines throughout the world.

France is now being exploited as the latest real-life location of a clodhopper land of rustic charm that has already been pursued to extinction on this side of the Channel. Whatever

is the holiday in all that cement-mixing and social responsibility?

The soft-edged vision of rural bliss can hardly co-exist with concern about falling lamb prices and school rolls: if you cherish French life to that extent, it becomes, like the toy rabbit in the story, inexorably real, and real-reality (as distinct from the commodity advertised in the flowery brochures) is clearly not wanted by most of those now seeking comfort and views.

and his kind who are the chauvinists here those who don't care what the host people think of them don't care in many other ways.

It is not amiable, let alone Francophile, to set up your own English restaurants in the land of good regional fare. This is behaviour on the *Viva Espana* level — even if the perpetrators believe themselves to be far from the slums of mass tourism — and so is the importation of English architects, builders and middlemen ("Can't trust the locals, you see"). It may seem less offensive, just "lovably eccentric", to run your own English-language newspaper or the Dordogne cricket team, but such activities beg a question: if you are as insular and uninterested in France as that, what, exactly, are you doing there?

Those who are now pillaging France, without any notion of what they may be helping to dismember, will only have themselves to blame if the French "turn nasty" (as they would say), and try belatedly to protect their patrimony (as the French would say).

If Switzerland, at one economic extreme, and India, at the other, can have working policies to prevent their native soil passing into alien, uninvolved hands, then it will not be beyond the ingenuity of the French to devise a similar scheme. Common Market notwithstanding, "We ought to have a quota," a French friend said to me. "One foreign family per village." He wasn't entirely joking. More serious suggestions include repair-and-preserve subsidies for French nationals only, and the sweeping classification of large parts of France as a "non-negotiable asset".

True friends of France may well feel the moment has come. Meanwhile, to all those joining the convoy to dreamland this summer, I recommend extreme amiability and a low profile. For your own sake, and mine, if not for that of France.

The outsider tends to destroy by his very presence what he has come to seek

FOOD AND DRINK, PAGES 6,7



Frances Bissell gives recipes to celebrate Easter. Jane MacQuitty comes up with refreshing drinks

JUMBO CROSSWORD, PAGE 24



Here's a clue about what to do over the holiday. Try the Jumbo Crossword — you could win £50

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FILM

LA BELLE NOISEUSE (15): Jacques Rivoire's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin. René (071-837 8402).

BUGSY (18): Warren Beatty as the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sleek, witty, dazzling to behold. Starring Annette Bening; director, Barry Levinson. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034); MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096); MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527); Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666); Mezzanine (0426 915683); Screen on Baker Street (071-352 2772); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).



Detailed: Sam Shepard in *Voyager*

CAPE FEAR (18): Demonic erosion. Robert De Niro terrifies Nick Nolte and family. Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Thelma Lewin. Empire (071-497 9959); MGM Fulham Road (071-2636); MGM Trocadero (071-344 0031); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DECEIVED (15): Goldie Hawn as the wife who doubts her husband's identity. Strong on atmosphere. Stars John Heard; director, Darren Hanes. Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666); West End (0426 914666); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE (15): Krystof Kieslowski's brilliantly turned conundrum about two girls (one Polish, one French) who seem to share a life. With Irene Jacob, Philippe Volter. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 5865).

THE DOCTOR (12): Callous surgeon (William Hurt) goes under the knife and becomes a better person. Familiar material, but lively treatment. Randy Haines directs. Barbican (071-638 8891).

CAMDEN PARKWAY (17): Robert De Niro terrifies Nick Nolte and family. Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Thelma Lewin. Empire (071-497 9959); MGM Fulham Road (071-2636); MGM Trocadero (071-344 0031); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

SCARFACE (18): Al Pacino's brilliant turn as the gangster who wants it all. With Steven Seagal, Tony Danza. MGM Trocadero (071-370 2656); MGM Haymarket (071-497 9959); MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096); Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

SAIMONBERRIES (12): Half-Esimo founding and an East Berlin escape are thrust together in an Arctic community. Arch Percy Adlon drama. Stars k.d. lang. Meme (071-792 3332).

STOP OR MY MOM WILL SHOOT (PG): Fester mum Estelle Getty comes to visit bachelor son Sylvester Stallone. Threadbare comedy for the easily pleased; director Roger Spottwood. Empire (071-497 9959); MGM Baker Street (071-935 2772); MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2656); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

VOYAGER (15): Strange coincidences and a pretty girl derail the life of a globe-trotting engineer (Sam Shepard). Sober, absorbing version of Max Frisch's novel. Homo Faber; director, Volker Schlöndorff. Curzon West End (071-349 4805).

FINAL ANALYSIS (15): Psychiatrist Richard Gere fails for a patient's sister (Kim Basinger) and gets more than he bargained for. (071-792 3332).

EVENINGS OUT

BRUCE OLDFIELD FASHION DESIGNER



I'd like to see Sylvie Guillerm and Laurent Hilaire in Kenneth MacMillan's production of *Manon*, with music by Massenet, on April 22. Guillerm, of course, is a brilliant performer. I love MacMillan's choreography and the sets are usually very good at the Royal Opera House. I'd like to see "Jewels of Fantasy", an important part of fashion and apparently it's a very broad exhibition covering the 20th century. The Eileen Gray exhibition at the Design Museum appeals to me. She was the British exponent of modern art deco furniture. Her most famous piece is a black lacquered screen: I'll be going specially to see it. 9

REGIONAL

BRADFORD: The May Theatre of St Peterborough returns with *Manon* (reviewed at UST last year); its marvellous picture of life in an army battalion for social misfits. Tour goes on to Nottingham, Glasgow and Derry.

THE THIEVING MAGINE: Opera North celebrates the Rosini bicentenary with a new production of *The Thieving Magpie*, in a new English translation by Jeremy Sams. The cast includes

Alannah Gray, Morley Road (0274 752000). Wed-Sat, 7.30pm.

WHITE WOMAN STREET: Five outlaws, loaded with memories, drift into an Ohio town 80 years ago. London premiers for Sebastian Barry's play which then transfers to the Peacock Theatre, Dublin, Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Preview tonight, Tues, Wed, 8pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm. No per Easter Monday.

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for. Overwrought pasiole melodrama; director, Phil Joanou. MGM NAG Oxford Street (071-370 2636); MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025); MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031); Plaza (071-497 9999); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE (12): Heart-warming lives of feisty folks down South. With Kathy Bates, Masterson; director, Jon Avnet. Odeon: Kensington (0426 915333); Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

HIGH HEELS (18): Lukewarm, talkative melodrama of family secrets from Spain's master of camp, Pedro Almodóvar. With Victoria Abril and Marisa Paredes. Goya (071-727 4043); Lumière (071-836 6051); MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096); Screen on the Hill (071-352 3366).

HOOT (U): Grown-up Peter Pan returns to Neverland to fight Captain Hook. Much kid-pleasing spectacle, but little magic. With Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman; director, Steven Spielberg. Bartlam (071-638 8891); MGM Baker Street (071-935 2772); MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096); Screen on the Hill (071-352 3366).

CAPE FEAR (18): Demonic erosion. Robert De Niro terrifies Nick Nolte and family. Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Thelma Lewin. Empire (071-497 9959); MGM Fulham Road (071-2636); MGM Trocadero (071-344 0031); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DECEIVED (15): Goldie Hawn as the wife who doubts her husband's identity. Strong on atmosphere. Stars John Heard; director, Darren Hanes. Odeon: Kensington (0426 915683); Marble Arch (0426 914501); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

KUCHUK: Days in the barren life of a laundry attendant. Quietly hilarious minimalist exercise from Kuni Iwamoto. ICA (071-930 3647).

LIGHT SLEEPER (15): Languidly elegy to the Eighties drug scene from writer-director Paul Schrader. With William Dafoe, Susan Sarandon. MGM Tooting Court Road (071-636 6148); MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

THE MAGIC RIDDLE (U): Playful jumble of fairy-tales, securely aimed at small fry by Australian cartoon-maker Yoram Gross. Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666); Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772); Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO (18): Gus Van Sant's quirky portrait of two drifters searching for a home: striking and aggravating by turns. Starring River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443); 2636; MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561); MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025); MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031); Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

SCARFACE (18): Al Pacino's starry portrait of two drifters searching for a home: striking and aggravating by turns. Starring River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443); 2636; MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561); MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025); MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031); Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

SAIMONBERRIES (12): Half-Esimo founding and an East Berlin escape are thrust together in an Arctic community. Arch Percy Adlon drama. Stars k.d. lang. Meme (071-792 3332).

THE GRAVITY SWIMME: The acrobatic troupe Ra-Ra Zoo are up to their clever tricks again, tumbling, swinging and dangling on ropes. Witty and charming. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-748 3354). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. No per Easter Monday.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's state-of-England drama. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE NIGHT OF THE MILAUNA: Alfred Molina and a superb Ellen Atkins in Tennessee Williams' play on sexual repression. National (0118); South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, 7.15pm.

PIYGMALEON: Frances Barber, Alan Howard in a Howard Davies production that some admire but others feel subordinates the text to a clever design. National (0118); South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2pm.

THE GRAND STARS: Stephen Cleobury conducts the choir of King's College Cambridge in the annual Easter Saturday performance of Bach's *St John Passion*.

SURVIVOR: Shelley Winters plays the hard-done-by heroine in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, adapted from Thomas Hardy's novel by Fay Weldon and directed by Helena Kaut. Howson.

THE RIBY ANGEL: David Freeman's spectacular production of Prokofiev's bleak melodic masterpiece in May. In the grottoes of the Royal Opera House, London, EC1 (071-242 1111). Preview Fri, 7.30pm, next Sat, 8pm. Opens April 28.

MANCHESTER: Northern premiere of *Les Misérables*, the well-known musical. Not a dry eye on the barricades. Palace Theatre, (061-236 44211). Preview Fri, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sun, 7pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm.

SCARFACE (18): Al Pacino's starry portrait of two drifters searching for a home: striking and aggravating by turns. Starring River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443); 2636; MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561); MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025); MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031); Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

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WHITE WOMAN STREET: Five

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Put the lid on canned laughs



Lynne Truss wonders whether the forced hilarity during comedy shows is the result of gas or obedience training

On last Saturday's *TV Heaven*, just before showing us an episode from the yesteryear sitcom *The Fosters*, our guardian angel Fran Muir happened to mention that the series was adapted from an American original. This turned out to be a handy tip, because what followed went something like this:

(Living room. Day. Members of Foster family ranged around three-piece suite, busying themselves in intrinsically unfunny ways. Inexplicable outbursts of audience laughter.)

MUM (to son): I want you to go and collect your brother's shoes from the menders.

(Audience howls with mirth.)

SON: Oh, why me?

(Audience makes emphatic harrumph noises, and stamps on the floor as if to say "Stop it or I'll die")

SISTER (entering, towelling wet hair): Hello, what's going on in here?

(Laughter and applause amid loud rippling noise of audience splitting its sides.)

It was a bit mystifying, really. Had *The Fosters* been sold an all-inclusive bargain package, comprising concept, script and original canned laughter soundtrack? Or did all sitcom audiences sound like this in 1976, and we have just forgotten? Either way, the phenomenon of all this weird, unearned hilarity made me feel strangely weightless and insecure, and I remember clinging to the carpet as I crawled set-ways to turn it off. If there's one thing I can't stand, I reflected afterwards, it is comedy that gives me paranoid vertigo.

The received wisdom about laughter on comedy shows and sitcoms, of course, is that you should be serenely unaware of it. It is just a noise that operates at a subliminal level, telling you that it is OK to laugh if you want to. You only notice it if you are trying to read in another room, or if you pop along to the kitchen to freshen your hot-water bottle, at which point the sound-track reveals itself in its full, horrifying monotony. "Blah blah blah blah." "Ha ha ha." "And blah blah blah to you too." "Ha ha."

The idea that this convenient buzz-noise actually emanates from

REVIEW

a group of individuals having a good time is somehow hard to grasp. The fact is, you only start thinking about the human make-up of the audience when you don't have the foggiest idea why they are laughing, and suspect they may be mad. Have these people been subjected to gas, or something? Were they recruited from the hyena park at Whipsnade? Are they perhaps watching *Fawlty Towers* on an overhead monitor? You want to rush among them and ask questions, such as "Did anyone try to hypnotise you, so that you are unconsciously programmed to go whoop-ha-ha at eight-second intervals?"

I mention all this because amid the many peculiar aspects of Channel 4's much-maligned *Sean's Show* (which started on Wednesday), the most peculiar of all was that the audience got the hang of it so quickly, and in fact greeted Sean Hughes's first entrance with thunderous applause, as though he were Vic Reeves on his last ever *Big Night Out*. As a stand-up comedian, Hughes is admittedly a popular bloke, but the enthusiasm of the audience was bizarre. Were they perhaps over-excited about the trip to the television studio ("team before bedtime," I warned)? Or had they just been treated to the most spectacular warm-up man in the history of broadcasting? Heaven forfend that they had been told to whoop it up merely for effect.

I was forcibly reminded, I must say, of a sidewalk comedian I saw in America, who attracted quite a large audience for his show simply by persuading a handful of willing bystanders (myself included) to yell and whistle and stamp their feet, and shout for an encore. Channel X — which produces *Sean's Show*, along with Vic Reeves' *Big Night Out* and *Tonight with Jonathan Ross* — are clearly fans of the same guy. But the trouble with using this tactic for the first instalment of a wacky, off-the-wall series such as *Sean's Show* is that it suggests the audience have seen it already (and



The endearing *Sean's Show*: Sean, a Bob Geldof lookalike, finds his little flat in north London is really a set in a television studio

loved it, of course), whereas surely some of it should come as a complete surprise. "That sock still isn't dry," said Sean suddenly, indicating a lone blue sock draped over the back of a kitchen chair. You could imagine this would get a lot funnier if he repeated it later on, but the audience rolled off their seats without more ado. Got it in one, apparently.

Sean's Show was certainly endearing: a sort of Pirandello sitcom with stand-up interludes, all performed by the narrow-shouldered Bob Geldof lookalike, at such a headlong speed that jokes were scattered to the winds. The idea is that the loveless Sean finds that his sad little north London flat is really a set in a television studio, and that his corner shop and local pub are just a few steps away, across the studio floor. The words "student-review" spring to mind, but are suppressed as cruel. Hughes's "one character in search of an author" stuff is quite fresh, actually, and anyway he clings to it for a good reason. His supposed scriptwriter, Samuel Beckett ("and he's dead") exclaims Sean overwhelmed, appears to be promising him a hot date with Susan.

In the cause of gags, he rushes about, switching on radios for

special announcements, makes surreal calls on a little red toy-phone, watches television, battles through wind-machine blizzards to the shop and the pub — but all the jokes are basically the same, because they all have the word "Alienation" going right through them, like the letters through Brighton Rock. When a tiny fragment of *The Smiths* comes on the wireless, Sean dances, morris-style with a bunch of daffs (lots of recognition-laughs from the fans), but the music finishes in a couple of seconds, and the disc jockey says: "And that goes out to all the young people with empty lives."

I suppose there are only a handful of options for a stand-up comedian with his own television series, and Channel 4 has now probably done them all. This is the straightforward spot-light-with-smoke-club format (*Jack Dee Show*); or the mixture of cabaret and location-stuff (last night's wonderful Julian Clary extravaganza, *Desperately Seeking Roger*). Usually, the stand-up is cunningly disguised, as in last year's *Paul Merton: The Series*, where Merton was endlessly discovered standing in a newspaper kiosk, pretending to be "in character" but really just telling jokes. "In the last war, we never used to worry about the bombs, because we knew they only hit you if they had your name on them. Of course, we were a bit worried about Mr and Mrs Doodlebug next door."

The trouble with televising stand-up comedians is, famously, that the medium eats up material. Jokes

that can last for years on the cabaret stage disappear down the maw of the television without touching the sides, and are gone forever. You

can't blame the comedians, then, if they look for ways to eke it out. But why is it that the idea of a comedian telling the same joke twice on television is an offence against decency?

Last Saturday's *Rowan Atkinson on Location in Boston* (BBC1) was very carefully captioned at the beginning, explaining that the material originated in a decade's worth of stage shows and that it therefore wasn't going to be completely new. But half-way through Atkinson's church-going sketch (where he sneezes violently, and has to wipe his nose on the lining of his jacket pocket) I recognised it as a scene from a Mr Bean film and felt oddly outraged. "Swizz," I shouted, involuntarily. "Give me my licence money back."

The interesting thing about *Sean's Show* though, is that the format actually suits his frothy, throwaway style rather better than formal stand-up does. The toy-phone is his apothecary. Where Jack Dee and Julian Clary are precise, emphatic performers who don't waste a single word ("What ever happened to the elephant man anyway?") as in the elephant man anyway?" asks Dee with a curled lip. "Just made that one film and never seen again". Sean Hughes is a sort of zero-gravity performer who operates on the principle of the human scattergun, with only half-baked jokes for ammunition.

The *Sean's Show* vehicle is therefore ideal; and the resemblance to a kid continually thinking "What shall I do next?" too overwhelming to be ignored. All this explains why his fans in the audience grabbed the joke stick when it was offered ("Still not dry"), guessing that it was their only chance. "What a symptomatic blue sock it was, though!" I sighed judgmentally afterwards. "If only young Sean knew how to write it out, instead of leaving it slightly damp." Good grief, I can be pompous sometimes. And I went tut-tutting, off to the kitchen, to freshen up my hot-water bottle.

PREVIEW

• Viewpoint '92: Heaven Must Wait

(Tuesday, ITV, 10.40pm) The exact moment when my tolerance for watching cosmetic surgery on television finally snapped was during an instalment of *The Word* (Channel 4), when we were shown an American body-builder receiving "pec" implants through slits under his armpits. Something about the way they were stroked into place reminded me of paté de foie gras, and I suddenly felt quite nauseous. I was also confused. Why did the patient show off his newly augmented pecs at the gym by saying, "Guys, how about these implants?" Shouldn't he have pretended that he owed it all to bananas and the bench-press?

Heaven Must Wait is a two-part investigation by Antony Thomas into America's \$4 billion-a-year anti-ageing industry and, unfortunately, promises to take us through the horrors of one woman's combined face-lift and nose-job, complete with bandages, cotton wool, and cuts and bruises. Looking on the brighter side, it also shows us a salutary moment when a New York plastic surgeon turns away an 84-year-old woman on the grounds that she is too old to withstand further surgery. What a day of reckoning. Just think of the implications she will have to start sliding gracefully into middle age.

• The Buried Mirror

(Wednesday, BBC2, 8pm) Carole Fuentes presents the first of a five-part series exploring the Spanish influence on Latin America, and his quest reminds me of a guide book to the Canary Islands I once read. The thing about the Lanzarotean, it said, is that he not only looks Spanish, he speaks and feels Spanish. I wondered whether the writer had done a blindfold test, groping the natives as though testing oranges. "Mmm, this one feels Spanish to me."

Feeling Spanish is important to Fuentes. Five hundred years after Columbus, he wants to know whether he ought to be sending thank-you letters to Spain. Latin America is in turmoil, he says; each child is born owing \$1,000 to a foreign bank. But on the other hand, the heritage is fantastic.

• Made in the USA

(Friday, Channel 4, 11.10pm) Following the success of *Manhattan Cable* (and ignoring the disaster of *Ring My Bell*), chirpy Laurie Pike visits various American cities — Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis — and selects bits of the home-grown television for our delectation. In Dallas for Friday's first programme, she visits Southfork Ranch and takes a ride on the "JFK Assassination Tour Bus".

Recently, during one of the New York editions of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Clive Anderson made a casual, disparaging remark about the quality of American television and was booed by the audience. It came as a surprise to me (and to Anderson) that the Americans might consider their television to be better than ours. I had always assumed they knew it was terrible.

L.T.

A steamy study of seething sisters

If a lot of the Channel 4 audience feel claustrophobic at the outset of Lorca's classic play *The House of Bernarda Alba* tomorrow night, the director Stuart Burge will sleep a happy man. If they also resist the initial impulse to escape by switching channels, he is convinced they will be doing themselves a favour.

"Lorca is such a good writer. I think people will feel new again after having been through it," he says. "I hope it gives people a better understanding of the human condition."

This enlightenment will come at a price. Few would dispute the considerable emotional toll exacted as Lorca's tale unfolds. Set in pre-war Spain and designed by the celebrated team responsible for *Qyano de Bergerac*, the play charts the seething passions and sexual jealousy unleashed in a household of five sisters, their battleaxe of a mother (Glenda Jackson) and the family maid Joan Plowright when a young philanderer with a keen eye on the main chance presses his suit on the eldest sister (Julie Letts) — perhaps predictably, the only one among them with a dowry.

True to the text, Burge deliberately chose to confine

Lorca's classic captures the heady intensity of Latin emotions

the action to a few rooms of the house. The terrifying catalysts of a mob baying for blood is heard closing in on the village street at one point. Elsewhere the men are heard in the distance singing as they return from work in the fields. But these tantalising strains of the world beyond only serve to highlight the inescapable isolation of the women.

Most of the splendid all-female cast appeared in the award-winning London stage play at the Lyric Hammersmith, which later transferred to The Globe. They include the two senior leads and, as the sisters, LeGrand, Patricia Hayes, Suzanna Hamilton, Deborah Findley and Amanda Root.

But what Burge did not want was a filmed stage production. "It's done so often in televised opera," he says. "You just stick up the cameras and hope for the best."

Approached last year by Channel 4 to direct, along

with the Spanish director Nuria Espert — responsible for the Lyric production — Burge was intent on "conveying the physical, psychological and emotional danger in that sort of community", while preserving Espert's original virtues. "Her stage play was very high on atmosphere. You had a real smell of the Spanishish," he says.

This was no mean feat, which probably explains why big productions of Lorca are so seldom attempted in this country. How do you dish up the full flavour of his fiery, intrinsically Spanish world to sophisticated British audiences without making the result risible — i.e., turning *Bernarda* into a tale of how five frustrated, increasingly hysterical women go batty without a man?

Burge was only too aware of the potential pitfalls. "It is very difficult for the English to do," he says. "A literal translation seldom works in English. We used the translation for the Lyric but we amended it in rehearsals for this version."

But while the cast grappled with paring down the Spanish on the one hand, co-director Espert urged them to lay it on with a trowel elsewhere. "What we thought was fine and very near to being over the top, she



Isolated and repressed: Joan Plowright as La Poncia

thought was only half-way there," Plowright says. "We had to move into another gear to get it right."

The actress suspects her parents "spectacular rows" as a child fuelled her ease in stepping into the role. "They were tempestuous," she says. Far more difficult was the task of immersing herself in the stifling atmosphere of total repression that pervades the play. It is, Plowright says.

"Lorca's vehement protest against the misuse of power and control, and I think that as such it is a great social commentary."

"It is about the specific condition of women in that country at that time — they were totally subservient to men, subservient to parents — in this case, a tyrannical mother who had been through the system herself and knew no other."

Shortly after filming, she recalls turning on the television one evening to find a Spanish critic summing up the cultural divide that still exists between Britain and Spain. "He was talking about Picasso, Salvador Dali and Buñuel and he was saying that we English and the rest of the world keep going on about how surreal they all are. But he said: 'It isn't surreal. It is just Spanish.' And I thought to myself, 'He's right'. That's what you have to get into."

GUILTY SECRETS: BELINDA LANG

"Watching any telly is a guilty secret, because I should be learning my lines. But there are a couple of things I'm addicted to. One is *LA Law*. This has been a slow but sure addiction, because they do it so well; they manage to juxtapose incredibly heavy material with absurd humour from one scene to the next. And I'm completely fixated by *Leslie Crowther's show, Stars In Their Eyes*, which has the same kind of appeal as *Blind Date* only more so, because I can't believe how good some of the people are. A couple of bratty reviewers have written that one doesn't really want to see Frank Field, let alone an imitation of him, but some of the contestants are really fantastic."

Belinda Lang is appearing in *The Dark River* at The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, Surrey.



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ANGELA BROOKS

The cure that killed off goth

Of all the movements that have emerged over four decades of British pop music culture — teddy boys, hippies, punks, headbangers and others — none has been quite so difficult to pin down as the goths. More a fashion statement than a cohesive musical phenomenon, gothic rock attracted a swarm of devotees whose sinister, all-black dress code was derived from the vampire movies of Bela Lugosi, and whose morbid cast of mind echoed the fantasy horror writings of Edgar Allan Poe.

Their favourite acts were groups such as Alien Sex Fiend, Bauhaus, the Southern Death Cult, The Cramps, the Theatre Of Hate and Fields Of The Nephilim. As the movement gathered momentum during the early Eighties, several established acts acquired a substantial goth following, most notably Siouxsie and The Banshees and The Cure.

However, the undisputed goth supreme was Andrew Eldritch, the singer and architect of The Sisters Of Mercy. A former languages student at St John's College, Oxford, Eldritch convened The Sisters in 1980, at Leeds University where he was enrolled for a degree in Oriental Studies. With his wan complexion, jet black (dyed) hair, ever-present shades and black leather couture, Eldritch forged an image that stamped itself indelibly on the rock psyche.

More importantly, with their early recordings, The

ROCK RECORDS

The Sisters Of Mercy: Some Girls Wander By Mistake (Merciful Release MRS555L)

The Cure: Wish (Picnic 513 261-2)

Sisters Of Mercy created a strand of music that wedged the cool techno-pop aesthetic of the American duo Siouxsie to the full-frontal punk-guitar dynamics of Iggy Pop's old band, The Stooges. Cobbled together with very limited technical resources — and making prominent use of a drum machine christened Doktor Avalanche — the result was a weird and often glutinous strain of mechanoid pop which, thanks to Eldritch's wracked baritone drawl, took on a dramatic quality of Wagnerian proportions.

A 19-track compilation of these early recordings, *Some Girls Wander By Mistake*, is released next week. An archivist's dream, it collects together all of the Sisters' recordings from 1980 to 1983, many of them items such as the primatively recorded debut single "The Damage Done", which were scarce to begin with and have long been deleted.

According to Eldritch, it would cost somewhere in the region of £1,000 to acquire all these items individually, by diligent searching through stalls at record fairs or collectors' magazine small-ads. The price of rare and bootlegged Sisters material will, of course, drop dramatically once this

compilation of it becomes available.

Yet, far from celebrating his widely perceived involvement in the heyday of goth, Eldritch comes to bury it: "All that goth overload stuff, a load of nonsense, and it always was," he now proclaims, with vehement indignation. "To me the g-word is totally derogatory. Would you call The Doors a goth band? No, because they've reached that level of acceptance where pretty, demeaning words like goth just don't apply to them, and I wish I was in the same position."

Thanks to the immense sales of their recent albums, The Cure have probably done more than any other group to popularise the goth ethic. Swathed in dense layers of dry ice their collective stage presence is detached and remote, while leader Robert Smith's fight-night image — spiky black hair, pancake complexion and a psychotic smudge of lipstick — has become a key component of gothic iconography.

Yet Smith, who also played with Siouxsie and The Banshees during the early Eighties, is no more enthusiastic about the g-word than Eldritch. "I've never actually liked goth bands," he says when questioned in this week's *New Musical Express* about the level of his involvement. "I've always despised The Sisters Of Mercy."

The Cure's new album, *Wish*, is released on Monday



Archetype goth-rocker with dyed black hair: Andrew Eldritch of The Sisters Of Mercy

and while their last two "new" albums (*Disintegration* and *Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me*) have both stuck to a rigorously downbeat formula, this is a much more versatile and alert collection. The firm, ringing guitar sound of "Open", the melodic sophistication of the

mournful "Apart" and the extraordinarily uplifting "Friday I'm In Love", are evidence of a band that is sailing on the crest of a creative wave far removed from the doomy and somewhat limiting moorings of goth as previously established.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Adventurous moves while touring

DANCE

Mukhamedov & Co
Derngate, Northampton

from four Royal Ballet choreographers.

The best of these was *Undine*, to Ravel's music from *Gaspard de la Nuit*. To this, David Bintley set a solo for Deborah Bull as the sea nymph, frothing her legs in imaginary waves, skipping over the breakers and walking with hesitantly broken steps along the edge of the tide as she thinks of her human lover.

Matthew Hart and William Tuckett both contributed short sketches, which were danced by Larissa Bamber partnered by, respectively, Luke Heydon as a comic Svengali and Michael Nunn as a gloomy fellow, perhaps at the end of a

dead or dying relationship. Ashley Page's *Quare* for Bull, Hatley, Trevitt and Nunn, apparently to one of Liszt's Hungarian rhapsodies, was redeemed by the quality of the dancing from the rather turgid mish-mash of its structure. Page made choreographic amends with a cheerful finale for the whole company to the last movement of Prokofiev's "Classical" symphony, which set them all moving happily through frequent chances of partnership.

Undoubtedly, Mukhamedov has hit a good balance between new and old, and has found a menu to satisfy a demand long felt among audiences outside the big cities. He is also giving new scope to some of the Royal Ballet's best young dancers, among whom Bull and Hatley shine as brightly as the two principals.

No scenery, but good costumes (many of them borrowed from Covent Garden);

very good stage management; attractive accompaniment on two pianos from Paul Stobart and Tim Quashnock, with Zoe Mather playing the Ravel. There is another performance at Bradford tonight.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Achterland
QEII

THE Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker opened this year's *Turning World* season and for the first time she showed us men. Male dancers have performed in her company, *Ross*, abroad; with *Achterland* (Hinterland) she introduced them here with a flourish. The house lights went down and a man erupted on the darkened stage with high-velocity rolls, runs and low swerves. This masculine language estab-

lished, the cast's three men articulated it throughout. A pianist, Rolf Hind, and violinist, Irvine Arditti, vividly present on stage, playing nervy or densely filigree solo scores by Ligeti and Yease. The piece is built in interlocking segments of sound and silence, dance and stillness, a stage that is bare or variously filled with chairs and low tables.

Such dualities make up Keersmaeker's artistic histrionics. It is a place where movement phrases are both coolly minimalist and palpably expressive; where unity shifts into disunity; where group anonymity co-exists with individuality; where men and women remain separate, but are shown to be similar.

Sometimes like the men, the five women cover the stage with violent curving trajectories and crashes. At other times they form geometric lines and opt for near-stasis, perching

on the chairs, sitting on the floor or tables. Here they perform elaborate ballets of cumulative leg and foot movements, or similar sequences transferred to the upper body, with torsos arching, knuckles rapping against the floor, hand brushing through hair.

Keersmaeker is fascinated by the way a movement alters according to which limb performs it, what sex the person is, and what they are wearing. They have more varied choreography, but it is a man who has the most stunning solo spot. He executes an extended dance of hip shakes and twitches that mirror a much shouter, earlier sequence by a woman. On the woman it had looked archly feminine: on the man it seemed the human equivalent of a mating display, attention-seeking and playful. And so, as the piece closed, the divisions between the sexes blurred until they mixed into a single dancing mass, each person gloriously, brazenly individual.

NADINE MEISNER

THERE is nothing in the Bolshoi concert programme at the Dominion this week to compare for sheer virtuoso display with the *Diana* and *Auron* duet which Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhamedov danced at the debut of his new small company on Tuesday. His enormous leaps, revolving in the air with arms and legs thrown out in front of him, brought gasps of astonishment; her airy lightness and the swift gaiety of her tripping runs were an equal delight.

Earlier, they had danced for the first time the Summer duet from MacMillan's *The Four Seasons*, where the bravura display was spiced with humour. But the programme by no means relied on familiar choreography.

There was, for instance, a waltz, full of unexpected details and piquantly danced by Belinda Hatley, which had choreography by Kasyan Goleisovsky to Johann Strauss's *Voices of Spring*, and there were no fewer than five premières commissioned



Unhappy couple at a happy moment: Saskia Reeves and Michael Maloney

And a playwright revived with love

THEATRE

A Woman Killed With Kindness
The Pit

CHARLES LAMB, calling Thomas Heywood "a son of prose Shakespeare", went on to find in his work generosity and gentleness, something called Christianity and something else called "true hearty Anglicanism of feeling". What he might have been getting at can be considered in the light of Katie Mitchell's production of Heywood's best known play.

Master Frankford, a Yorkshire squire and "the most perfect man that ever England bred," catches his wife in bed with her lover, Wendoll, but instead of stabbing his dagger into her adulterous heart, as one of his servants suggests, he recalls what Christ might have done and spares her life. Giving her two hours to gather her belongings, he sends her off to one of his manors where she soon

dies of remorse, united briefly in his arms as she expires. In a society where, on stage at least, death was commonly the fate of the unfaithful, Frankford's actions must have seemed startlingly generous. Also significant is the play's immense contemporary success, for while the domestic life of the gentry was still some way from the experience of the average theatre goer, it was a good deal closer than the doings of Italian princelings and black governors of Cyprus.

True, the sinner dies, and Frankford's gentleness is not the same thing as forgiveness, but one of the features that makes the play so interesting is Heywood's insistence on the moral value of being kind. This emerges in the sub-plot of the quarrelling knights, where one falls in love with the other's sister and discovers the way to happiness lies through a change of heart. Valentine, Pelka and Sylvester Le Touzel, friar and wonderer, make the reconciliation inexpressibly moving.

In a play where the daily life of servants is frequently shown, Mitchell's designer (Vicki Mortimer) sets the action on a stage carpeted with peat: this is a country setting, where floors are straw-covered and the ruined knight grub potatoes from the soil. It is also a Christian community, and throughout the play characters

turn and pray to the stone crucifix placed boldly front of stage. When Saskia Reeves, as Frankford's wife, finds herself tranced with desire for Barry Lynch's Wendoll, she turns her eyes guiltily at Jesus.

A while passes before the play's concern reveals itself but Michael Maloney's sober Frankford is, from the beginning, a charismatic figure, never showy, not over-ready with smiles. His keenness to offer gifts hints at emotional uncertainty beneath the propriety. A way he has of pulling off his gloves is a revealing detail. In the outburst against his wife he momentarily un-governed arms and Reeves's flittering hands open our eyes to the passions searing them. The acting of the household servants is also exemplary.

JEREMY KINGSTON

not without textural delicacy (and a notably graceful flute solo). The seven-beat metre in the finale was played with spirit and panache.

Preceding it was an almost genial account of Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*, where Mehta conveyed not so much affection for this sharply written music as a kind of patronising tolerance, smoothing out the crisp edges of instrumentation and almost flippant in places (the middle movement particularly). His most noteworthy contribution was to position the piano and harp at the centre front of the orchestra where their players could register the more strongly.

Maybe Stravinsky would have benefited from reducing the full strings by a desk or two in each section as Mehta did for Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*. Was this in the interest of ensemble compactness, or to benefit the teenage soloist, Maxim Vengerov?

Although his playing was loudly acclaimed, it seemed to me that his undoubted technical proficiency achieved a very commonplace reading of the work, bland and charmless, and without any apparent awareness of more than the surface value of the notes. The orchestra's indulgent, sometimes coarse-textured support followed an opening *Prelude* to *Khovanshchina* that Mehta sentimentalised to sound more like Puccini than Mussorgsky.

NOEL GOODWIN

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Gershwin's and the courting crooners

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AMERICAN EXPRESS
Cards

Ale fellows well met

How does a Belgian tie his shoelaces? The answer is a sight-gag which I shan't spoil by describing: it cannot be verbally conveyed. You must ask someone Dutch or someone French to show you. And that is the point. Belgium is the butt of jokes told by both its neighbours. Of course certain of the qualities ascribed to Belgians in these jokes are those elsewhere ascribed to the Irish, the Polish, whoever. None the less Belgium is regarded as funny. Though being a fan of the place — perhaps I should say the fan — I'd suggest that it's peculiar rather than ha-ha. Infinitely peculiar indeed: so close, so subtly different. Part of its appeal is no doubt that it mirrors England, but an imaginary England or, at least, a now vanished England.

This is not, perhaps, as surprising as it might seem, for it used to be a devotedly Anglophilic country. Though I suspect that this Anglophilic did not extend to our food. Beer, yes — Belgium may produce more than 700 different brews (compare that to Wales which is hardly smaller but is unique in its problem of having no alcoholic beverage it can call its own) yet it

Jonathan Meades, a (or the) fan of Belgium, gets down to some serious beer business in north London

demanded more there are English beers on sale in Belgium which you never see at home.

The country's bibulous preoccupation — there are also hundreds of geneves — are matched by its gastronomic ones. The standard of its everyday restaurants is the highest in Europe, certainly superior to France. A large, voracious, informed and conservative bourgeoisie demands and gets cooking of persistent accomplishment. It is not *all* mussels, chips and mayonnaise any more than England is all roast beef and Yorkshire pudding or Italy all pasta and pizza.

The trouble with Belgo, opposite the Roundhouse in north London, is that it feels bound to adhere to the caricature. This is not the first Belgian restaurant to have been set up in London, but it is the first that looks to have been undertaken in earnest and the first which has a better than

even chance of survival. I hazard thus not because of the quality of its cooking but rather on account of the authenticity, scope and rarity of its repertoire. There can be no question that the majority of its dishes are characteristically Belgian, even if they are pretty obvious and determined not to offend. So there's no horsemeat, and the Brussels offal dish called choucroute is not offered; there's no place for eel in green sauce; there are none of the resourceful potes that use everything but the squeal, and so on.

Still there are enough generally unfamiliar items here to make it attractive to the gastronomically curious. Mussels are prepared in about a dozen ways; I'm not convinced that a sauce of bacon and beer is much more than an oddity — though like anything else it largely depends on the skill with which it's done. Beer cooking, which is one of the glories of the Belgian kitchen,

is represented by carbonnade, le beef braised in beer, and by rabbit cooked in kriek, cherry flavoured beer. The rabbit was OK, though it might have been larded to counter desiccation. Stoemp, a form of bubble and squeak which includes carrots, is served with heavily smoked wild boar sausage — a successfully tarted up version of bangers and mash. Waterzooi is a creamy, soupy stew that was (probably) originally made with fish but which nowadays often includes chicken. Belgo's version is pizzone and indicates a level of ambition which most of the cooking lacks. It's pretty good. Prawn croquettes are less pleasing. They are like a product of industrial cooking, something from a freezer cabinet — Findus style crust and soupy interior. The cheeses are Belgian and include Herve, which is probably best eaten at lunchtime and best accompanied with beer.

For some reason Belgo offers Danish akavit rather than Belgian genever. Chocolates are, of course, Belgian, and so are Tigra cigarettes which have a delightful pacifier unchanged since the 1950s. Beyond these are the beers which are probably the real point of the place. Belgian beer is a

complicated subject. The variety is amazing. Beers flavoured not only with cherries but with mint, plums, spices. Beers the colour of barley sugar. Beers of 11 per cent alcohol, cooked beers, sweet beers, beers which (according to Baudelaire) are 'synonyms of urine', abbey beers, home beers. Belgo's selection hardly begins to scratch the surface

but it is nevertheless a good sampler. There are various specialist shops which carry an extensive range but to buy the bevvie retail and swig it at home would mean missing the beguiling bizarre premises that Belgo has wrought out of a shop and a former larm-to.

The street front is concrete, incised with the name in elemental sans serif. The door handle is a very heavy hunk of nautical scrap, not the last that will be encountered — the famous breaker's yard at Tipner on the edge of Portsmouth may have been effectively plundered. Once through this door you enter a corridor designed for sensory deprivation and vertiginous imbalance. It slopes. The walls are concrete. Suddenly it all opens up. Down to the left is a chasm, the kitchen. Instead of

chucking yourself off the Highgate Archway or Clifton Bridge you could always aim for bolting fat a storey down. The waiters, dressed in habits like maroon monks, would no doubt talk you out of it. The dining room is long, half a barrel vault. Waxed wood tables, chairs whose legs are shaped like axe handles. These walls are also incised with such words as Donkeythistle, Rumblegut, Slapjaw, Assface, Sourchop, Sowsticker. What is their source? A translation of Rabelais. Who was not Belgian. The lad hauled from Chinon, which is where I'll go next. That's Chinon in Shepherd's Bush, not Chinon in Touraine.

Belgo
① 72 Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (071-267 0718)
Lunch and dinner every day, £4.50 plus.

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and though they are intended to reflect value for money, they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very cosy restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire — and are subject to frequent change. Reviews included in this directory are distilled from articles previously published in the main column. It is not only disconcerting but illegal to dishonour bookings; this goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

GOOD SERVICE

L'Hippocrate
① 63 Friul Street, London W1 (071-734 4545)

A fine French fish restaurant. The inventive marine décor is witty, full of delightful surprises. The cooking is classic: eels stewed in red wine, sole with cabbage and a juniper sauce, raw tuna with a lovely potato salad, mussels with shellfish broth. The service could hardly be bettered. £60 plus. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

Wilsons
① 55 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (071-629 9955)

Admirably straightforward non-hoity-toity fish cooking — unpretentious fish dishes and terrific saucers are among the things that make this a one-of-a-kind few worthwhile restaurants in London. The service is so good it wraps you in a swaddling cloth of benefice for which you pay around £140. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

Cheviot Glen
① 13 Chichester Road, New Milton, Hampshire (0423-752111)

This is the luxury hotel. Despite a rather unromantic setting in the sprawl of outer Bournemouth it sets the standard for all British "country house" hotels. The service is astonishing, yet there is nothing impersonal about it. The cooking is luxury hotel stuff but done with a flair and talent that is rare: scallops

with shredded mangoldous and butter sauce; ravioli of fennel; millefeuille of salmon and spinach; marvellously kept cheeses; terrific puddings. Numerous good bottles for around £12. At dinner two will pay about £90, lunch is less. Lunch and dinner every day.

Honeysuckle

① 87 High Street, Edenbridge, Kent (0732 866757)

A beautifully converted clapboard mill in commuterland. The cooking, by Neville Goodwin, is polished but rather timid in its flavouring. When that is put right, this will be worth the trip. Fish tends to be better than meat — red mullet with a red wine sauce, smoked fishes in jelly etc. Impressive wines, courteous service. £75. Lunch Tues-Fri and Sun, dinner Tues-Sat.

Le Gayrette

① 43 Upper Brook Street, London W1 (071-408 0881)

The rather ancient regime meat cookery can be outstanding: the daube of beef is massive and comforting and possesses a depth of flavour that recalls a different age. The service is marvellous. The prices, especially of the wines, are frightening. The basement dining room is a shrine both to the Rout brothers and to stately sybaritism. The frivolity of "experimental" cooking is totally shunned: this cooking is based in classical taste without gimmicks. At lunch two might just get out for £65 to £70. In the evening £140 is nearer the mark. Lunch and dinner Mon-Fri.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Sunday and Tues-Fri, dinner Tues-Sat.

Lydiates

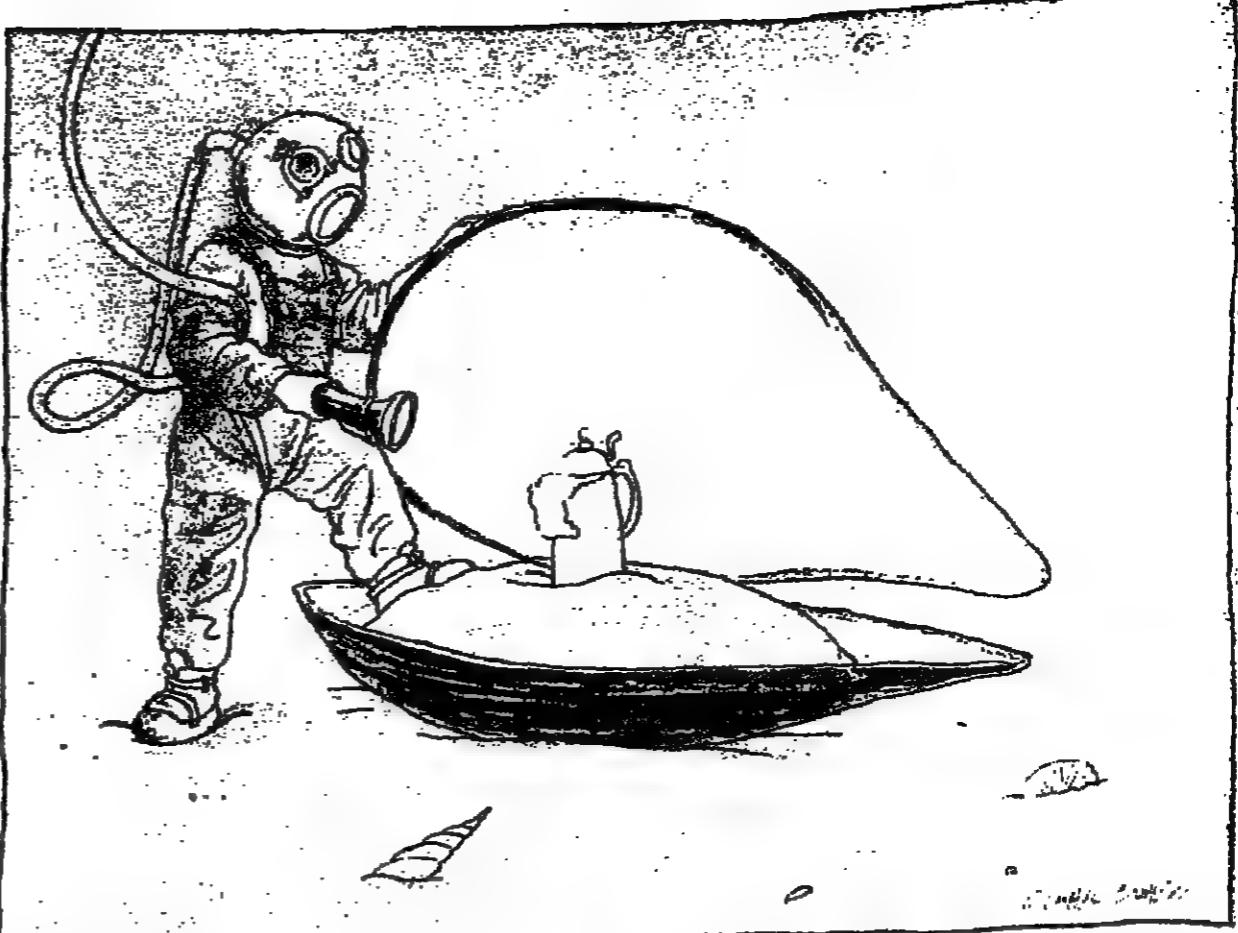
① 5a Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (0343 212193)

Small and homely restaurant in part of a Wealden house in a pretty street of weather-boarded buildings. Accomplished and well-judged cooking, amiable service. The menu is very understated — when it says lamb casserole you get just that, but done with a sureness of touch that is remarkable. Impressive starters, delicious sweets. The prices are most reasonable. £35-£40. Lunch Wed-Fri and by reservation on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Dinner Tues-Sat.

Kensington Place

① 201 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (071-727 3184)

Large, loud, vital. This is a mould-breaker, the metropolitan venue of the moment. A combination of chef (Rowley Leigh), restauranteur (Simon Stater and Nicholas Smallwood) and architect (Julian Wickham) has created something far beyond a mere showplace for kitchen excellence. Nowhere else in London offers such cooking at such prices. Nowhere else in London is so varied in its clientele. Leigh is the most intelligent English chef of his generation. His own inventions are remarkable: chicken and goat cheese mousse; warm oysters with cucumber and wild rice or chutney; feta gratin with sweetcorn pancakes. The sweets are ace, the wines well-chosen and inexpensive. Great classic cocktails. £50-£60, £35 at lunchtime. Lunch and dinner every day.



Treat them



There are now two delicious alternatives to cream. Flora Single and Flora Double. They taste just like fresh cream and they

can be used in exactly the same way. The difference is that Flora Single and Double are made with sunflower oil, which is high in

FLORA

polyunsaturates and low in saturates. So next time you fancy giving your family a treat, Flora offers you the perfect choice.

Variations on easy themes

Although I would not suggest serving all four of today's dishes at the same meal, I can recommend them as additions to your repertoire for entertaining. In style, the recipes have little in common:

• The potted trout is a pale, genteel Sunday tea-time kind of dish.

• The grilled marinated beef, with a vibrant Latin-American flavour, is based on *fajitas* and is a spicy, casual dish to be served with piles of warm fresh bread, crisp cool salads, sweet and sour accompaniments and a bowl of cooked beans; this is a marvellous dish for a holiday lunch

Potted smoked trout with cucumber and horseradish relish
(serves 8-10)

3 smoked trout
6oz/170g unsalted butter at room temperature
1/2 lemon
pinch of ground mace or freshly grated nutmeg
finely ground black pepper
4 anchovy fillets
1/4pt/70ml clarified butter for keeping
1 cucumber
1 tsp sea salt
4 spring onions
2-3 sprigs fresh mint
1tbsp grated horseradish
1/4pt/140ml thick Greek yoghurt
finely ground black pepper
small wedge of honeyed rosin (optional)

Flake the fish into a bowl, removing as many of the fine bones as possible. Beat in the butter with a fork. Grate in the lemon zest and season with mace, juice, mace or nutmeg and pepper. Pound the anchovy fillets and stir into the mixture, which should be smooth before you pack it into ramekins or a china dish. If you wish to keep the fish for a day or two, run clarified butter over the top and refrigerate. Serve with hot toast and the chilled cucumber relish.

Cucumber and horseradish relish

Split the cucumber lengthways and discard the watery core. Finely chop one half of the cucumber and grate the other half. Put in a colander, sprinkle with salt, and allow to stand for 30-40 minutes. Press all the moisture out. Trim the spring onions, and strip the mint leaves from the stems. Chop these two ingredients very finely and stir into the drained cucumber. Mix in the horseradish, yoghurt and pepper and, if you have it, the melon, chopped up, which adds a contrasting note of sweetness.

Marinated grilled beef with mango and chilli salsa

(serves 6-8)

2lb/900g good skirt beef, flank steak or the tail end of a fillet
Marinade
2 ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
4tbsp rum or tequila
4tbsp pineapple juice
4tbsp olive oil
1tbsp lemon or lime juice
2tsp Worcestershire sauce
1tsp Angostura
1tsp Tabasco
1/2tsp sea salt
1/2tsp freshly ground black pepper
To serve
2-3 red or green chillies
fresh coriander leaves
flour tortillas or pita bread

Mix together the marinade ingredients. Slash the meat in two or three places on each side, place in a shallow bowl and pour the marinade on top.

for a large group of people.

• The muffins could be served at a late, lazy weekend breakfast or lunch.

• The roulade is so sumptuous and elegant in appearance that it makes a special dessert for a small spring wedding breakfast.

• What the recipes do have in common is their adaptability. If smoked trout does not appeal to you, the same method can be used with cooked, smoked haddock or fresh salmon, with smoked eel or smoked

Frances Bissell, The Times
cook, suggests four recipes
infinitely adaptable for your
entertaining repertoire

mackerel. 1-1/2lb/500g smoked salmon easier to manage in a food processor; cooked meat can be potted in the same way and I recommend the addition of a splash of port or Madeira.

The marinade for the beef can be made less sticky, more classical, or it can be served into an oriental

marinade; the beef can then be cut into small strips and stir-fried for serving with crisp vegetables and a large bowl of rice. Skirt steak is one of the tastiest pieces of beef, and very lean. It is at its best when quickly grilled or fried and served rare. If you want it well done, it should be braised very slowly, with plenty of moisture.

The salsa recipe works just as well with papaya or pineapple.

Unlike English muffins, which use a yeast-risen dough, American muffins are sponge-like and rise because of the raising agents in baking powder. I like the texture obtained from strong bread flour, but you can also use self-raising flour and omit the baking powder.

The white chocolate roulade recipe is based on the classic, fatless whisked sponge. It will, of course, take the simplest filling of raspberry jam and whipped cream, with a dusting of icing sugar on top; richer versions include liqueurs for flavouring and fresh fruits in season or marmons glace and crystallised violets, or a chocolate-based confection, substituting 1oz/30g flour for the same quantity of sifted cocoa.

DIANA LEADBETTER

Photo: PA

Junior four-wheel drive

Young roller-skaters are all set for next week's competitions, Jane Bidder writes

Next weekend nearly 150 children will flock to Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and start getting their skates on. On the occasion, at the Rollerbury Rink, is the Primary Roller Skating Championships (for ten to 13-year-olds) and the novice event (beginners of any age).

Some hopefuls, such as ten-year-old John Kell, from County Durham, who began roller-skating when he was aged four and went on to become the British novice champion two years ago, are almost as much accustomed to being on wheels as they are to walking.

John caught the bug from his sister Sheryl, aged 15, who first tried roller-skating at a rink during a family caravanning holiday and has hardly taken her skates off since. Now Sheryl, another sister, Caroline, aged 13, and John, train for four hours five days a week.

The Kells are not unusual. According to the British Federation of Roller Skating an increasing number of children, from the age of three, are taking up the sport, together with many a game parent who rediscovers the joy of skating along to lively background music and peals of laughter.

The advent of roller-blades, which look like ice skates with wheels along a thin central blade, has added a frisson of trepidation to the pastime, although as yet few rinkrent them and they cannot be used in competition.

Britain has seven purpose-built rinks — the one at Bury St Edmunds is among the largest. But there are also smaller rinks which are part of sports/leisure centres, and a few on resort seafronts.

Graham Cubitt, a freelance coach, says skating is an excellent hobby for young children, providing they can walk reasonably well and have good balance. "Because they're still low to the ground, it's not so serious if they fall. It's also good exercise for strengthening leg muscles." Parents, warns Mr Cubitt, should be more careful. "Their bones are more brittle and they are less used to falling over than a toddler. I've seen some adults end up in plaster."

Nevertheless, one of the attractions of roller-skating is that the whole family can join in, and what child does not relish seeing mum or dad take a harmless fall? Although Susan Kell is "too scared" to join in,



Gliding confidence: competitive sisters Jenna Guest, aged seven, and Samantha, 11, who finds the sport is good for her arthritis

her husband John has on occasion joined his children on roller-skating discos afternoons.

Most junior skaters start off for pleasure but then get drawn to the competitive side of the sport. Jenna Guest and her sister, Samantha, started skating three years ago when they were four and eight years old respectively. "Samantha has arthritis in her knee and the consultant suggested that roller-skating might help," her mother, Janet, says.

The Guests went to their local rink near Walsall, West Midlands, and discovered that included in the session fee were the services of a coach. From then on, there was no stopping the sisters. "The coach helped them take grades 1-6, which included basic dance steps and jumps," Mrs Guest says. "By grade six, they knew enough to do a two-minute free-skating programme. We began to pay extra for coaching

about £3 an hour for a group of four and entered competitions."

The children's competition structure is daunting: from May 2-8 there are the youth championships (for 12 to 13-year-olds) at Leicester, and from May 24-25, the junior championships (ages 14-15) at Bridgend, South Wales.

Winning is not everything. "Roller-skating has taught my daughters to move more gracefully. It has improved Jenna's posture," Mrs Guest says, "and helped Samantha's arthritis, although she still finds certain moves difficult."

Samantha says she enjoys "showing off and feeling the air rush through my hair as I skate along." She also likes to design her own outfits, which are then made by a friend of her mother. Less serious skaters wear track suits.

For children who do not want to enter competitions, roller-skating can still be a lot of fun, and is

reasonably inexpensive. Sessions normally cost about £2-£3 an hour, which can, according to the rink, include the cost of hiring the skates. Buying skates can be costly (a pair good enough for competitions costs about £200), though most rinks have secondhand skates for sale.

Seeing what fun roller-skating can be is almost enough to make me take my three children to our nearest rink at Milton Keynes, in Buckinghamshire. But one little incident has put me off: a friend (another mother of three) goes so carried away watching her graceful six-year-old that she tries to copy what looks like a simple routine. Her leg, the doctor says, should be out of plaster in six weeks.

• For details of your nearest roller rink and any other skating information, contact the British Federation of Roller Skating, Lilleshall National Sports Centre, near Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT (0952 825253).

Although Samantha, like John Kell, will be trying her luck at next weekend's Primary championships, there are others who have had a head start. Eight-year-old Natalie Fiuordi, from London, started skating at only two years old, and recently won the Seven and Under Roller-Skating Championship of Great Britain.

Natalie was "discovered" by Mr Cubitt. "I saw immediately that she had great flair, coupled with confidence and grace," he says. Now Natalie travels to Great Yarmouth every weekend, with her mother, Antonia, for specialist coaching. "It's a great opportunity for her," Mr Fiuordi says. "And even if she doesn't turn professional, it's a wonderful hobby which has helped her travel, meet other children and increased her confidence."

For children who do not want to enter competitions, roller-skating can still be a lot of fun, and is

Easter holiday events

LONDON

- Battersea parade: Big annual celebration supported by arena events, entertainment and a fun-fair. Battersea Park, SW11. Tomorrow, noon-6.30pm. Free.
- Zoo special: Many events based on Peter Rabbit, including competition trials with badges and prizes, colouring sheets and story-telling. London Zoo, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-722 3333). Today, tomorrow. Mon, 10am-5.30pm. £5.60, child £3.50.
- Kim festival: Individual, team, stunt and fighting kite displays, parading teddy bears, and a competition today. Blackheath, SE3. Today, tomorrow. Mon, 10am-5pm. Free.
- Glastonbury rarities: Holiday quiz with prizes until April 23. On Monday, baby rare breeds. Somerset Rural Life Museum, Abbey Farm, Glastonbury, Somerset. (0458 831197). Weekends, 2-6pm. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. £1.20, child 30p.
- Goodrich tales: Medieval England stories for six to 12-year-olds. Goodrich Castle, near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire (0600 890538). Wye, Herefordshire (0600 890538). Mon 2pm, 3pm, 4pm. £1.50.
- Upper Dicker dares: More than 4,000 eggs to be found hidden



Eggstravaganza: join a hunt

somewhere in the grounds, with hunts for various ages. Michelham Priory, Upper Dicker, East Sussex (0323 844234). Tomorrow from noon. £1.50.

□ Knebworth fair: Craft fair and ducklings, lambs and other animals, plus shire horse cart rides, music with a fairground organ and children's play area.

Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 654822). Today, tomorrow. Mon, 10-3pm. £1.20, child £1.00, 2-6pm. £2.00, car £2.

□ Sandringham: Country craft demonstrations and an cut-out chick hunt, with prizes. Sandringham, Norfolk (0638 833555). Today, tomorrow. Mon, 9.30am-6.30pm. Last admission 5.30pm. £3.50, child £1.75 plus 25p quiz sheet.

□ Belvoir in the air: Tethered hot air balloon rides, treasure hunt, clowns and funfair. Whitbread Hop Farm, Belvoir, Rutland. (0522 872068). Tomorrow, Mon, 10am-6pm. £4.25, child 5-15 £3. under fives free, family ticket £7.50.

NATIONWIDE

- Arundel games: Question and answer egg hunt with small prizes. Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 883355). Today. Mon, 9.30am-6.30pm. £1.20, child £1.00, 2-6pm. £2.00, car £2.
- Sandringham: Country craft demonstrations and an cut-out chick hunt, with prizes. Sandringham, Norfolk (0638 833555). Today, tomorrow. Mon, 9.30am-6.30pm. Last admission 5.30pm. £3.50, child £1.75 plus 25p quiz sheet.
- Belvoir in the air: Tethered hot air balloon rides, treasure hunt, clowns and funfair. Whitbread Hop Farm, Belvoir, Rutland. (0522 872068). Tomorrow, Mon, 10am-6pm. £4.25, child 5-15 £3. under fives free, family ticket £7.50.
- Stonebridge life: Lambs, chicks and rabbits on Monday black-legged penguins. Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket, Suffolk (0449 612229). Tomorrow, Mon, 10am-5pm. £3.25, child three-16 £1.60, under three free, family ticket £9.
- Walsingham: Egg hunt with prizes for under 16s. Plus an Easter bonnet competition. Walsingham, Norfolk (0449 233074). Mon 10am-5pm. £4.75, child £3.90.
- Burrsfield estate: Watch woodcarvers creating farm animals, help in the farm kitchen, decorate an egg and see new lambs and piglets. Manor Farm, Upper Hambleden, Chilterns, Buckinghamshire (0494 844800). Tomorrow 10am-5pm.

JUDY FROSHAUG

071-481 1920

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

ADVENTUROUS blonde lady 34+ interested, the more the better, in a long-distance relationship. Please reply to Box No 8142.

ADVENTUROUS female 44 yrs, 5ft, 8", 9st. NW based, available for serious, committed, interesting, intelligent, 45/50s. Photo reply to Box No 8143.

AFFABLE elegant gentleman, 44, available for a relationship, with an affluent, well-established, professional, 45/50s. Photo reply to Box No 8144.

ALMOST 40 without Mrs Right, 45, available for a serious, romantic, respectable man, available for a serious, love relationship. Please reply to Box No 8145.

AMERICAN blonde, 35, from America, looking for a relationship with an Englishman, 35-40, with a sense of humour, 45-50s. Photo reply to Box No 8146.

AMUSING successful lad man sought by system. He prefers art, but not art for art's sake. Relationship. London SE2. Please reply to Box No 8147.

A SINGLE COURTESY Evening. Enter super dinner parties and lots of fun. Photo reply to Box No 8148.

ASSERTIVE attractive, slim lad, well along term related, single, 25-30, Bham based and will travel. Photo reply to Box No 8149.

ATTRACTIVE blonde lady 30+ with a good education, good taste, good looks, good sense of humour, good company. Photo reply to Box No 8150.

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ATTRACTIVE blonde lady 30+ with a good education, good taste, good looks, good sense of humour, good company. Photo reply to Box No 8189.

ATTRACTIVE</

Aspects of love in the potato field make my heart race

I never thought it possible that such a distinguished country man's journal as *The Field* would publish photographs of a titillating and arousing nature. However, a few weeks ago, I opened my copy to find a picture which would send any aspiring vintage farmer, like me, to the cold shower.

It was a photograph of a man with a pair of horses, drawing lines of earth with his plough. By inspired use of lenses and landscape the photographer had miniaturised the man and his team to give the effect of a Lilliputian ploughing between rows of newly ironed corduroy.

But it was not the farmer, nor his horse, which kindled lustful thoughts within me, it was the furrows. Kinky they were not, but almost obscenely straight. They headed to the horizon with no hint of a meander, no suggestion of a

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

wobble from the straight and narrow. They were perfectly formed, lying seductively across the land, inviting caress. My heart raced.

I was hardly into my farming-with-horses career when I discovered the tantalising nature of the straight line. All jobs in every field on this farm start with a single furrow, alongside which all other furrows will lie. If the furrows wobble, so will the seed drill when it sows the corn, and then the horse-drawn hoe will not be able to follow because the hoe and the horse both work in straight lines. Even when it is a job where straightness is of no particular virtue, like rolling, it is impossible to let one's standards drop: you can be there will be some old boy

leaning over the gate, watching. He may not say anything at the time but sooner or later word will reach me that "old Charlie thought I was in a right muddle".

In the days when all farms were worked with horses, it was considered a horseman's legitimate recreation to stroll the lanes on a Sunday, peering over the hedges, noting the dependencies in someone else's work. Each wobble was haulled out in evidence that night in the pub to shame the man who let his attention and his horses momentarily wander.

Only practice can make perfect; but the snag with rehearsing is that it all has to be done in public; and it is irreversible. If I draw a furrow which rolls like the proverbial

English road, I cannot fix a sign to it saying: "Sorry, only done for practice." Nor can I cover it up; it is too deep and permanent. That is the reason my heart pounds when I call to the horses "G-up" and cut the initial furrow in a field.

This week it has pounded a lot. I have been drawing ridges into which I planted potatoes and it is exactly the same operation as was being performed by the farmer in

that stimulating picture. But I fear that at the end of the day not even a trick photographer could have created such a powerful impression out of my pathetic efforts.

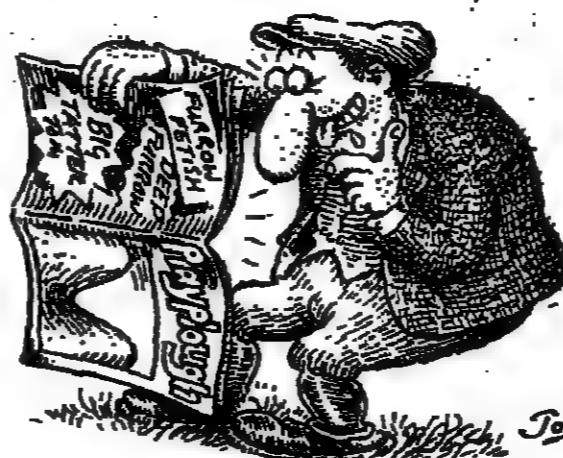
I use a ridging plough, known hereabouts as a "lateral tom". It is similar to an ordinary plough but throws the earth to both sides leaving a V-shaped furrow. It is into that furrow you drop the seed potatoes, and then plough the length of the ridge to throw the soil back whence it came. This not only covers the potato, it leaves a ridge of earth above it into which the young potatoes grow. If you find this difficult to follow, imagine what it is like to perform.

The first drawing of the furrows is easy, and even the dropping of the potatoes becomes pleasant if you do not allow your mind to dwell on the tedium of it. I once heard of an old horseman who, when asked what occupied his mind as he

worked alone in the fields, replied with a twinkling eye: "Same as any young man thinks about when he's on his own for long enough." Me, I thought of that photograph, and Iusted after the earthy mounds.

But when the climax came and I set the plough to create my mounds, my orderly field of spuds became a battleground. My lateral tom wandered hazily, like a besotted schoolboy overcome with his first thoughts of love. I wept, heartbroken. I cursed the plough, the horses and spuds. Love turned to hate. Such beauty, I realise, is found only in the pages of tantalising magazines and is beyond the reach of this common man.

I do not want to live through such an unsettling experience again. The next time I am in the local paper shop I shall ask the newsagent to move *The Field* to the top shelf, well out of reach of this impressionable youngster.



STEPHEN MARKSON

Hazards of a happy cleric

The Rev John Hawthorne on the annual ups and downs of delivering the Easter message

Seamus, despite his name, was born in England. "But," he explained to a friend when he was aged five, "I was conceived in Ireland." And so he probably was — just. I am not very good at that sort of arithmetic. The context of their conversation I don't know. Perhaps it is just as well.

Now aged 20, he is our youngest son, followed only by 12-year-old Phoebe. He still has his odd moments. For my birthday, rather than the expected bus pass to celebrate my advanced age, he sought to flatter my intellect, buying me Bruce Duffy's *The World As I Found It*. It is a typical American first novel — layered writings as my wife would describe it. Covering some 40 years and two world wars, Duffy juxtaposes the lives, loves and philosophies of Ludwig Wittgenstein, G.E. Moore and Bertrand Russell.

Seamus is a good present buyer,明白 generosity and economy. The Christmas before last he gave me a brass button and an IOU for a cope. The button I still have — as well as the IOU. The cope has yet to come. Seamus takes after Seth, his eldest brother. Seth's present to the family, a few years ago, was a pack of eight identical cards — one each. "It's the thought that counts," he said.

But back to Duffy. At one point he has Russell speaking of the difficulty facing the writer who, in the course of his writing, has to give expression to feelings that have long since gone. As a priest, I sympathise. Often I have to write of, and create a vehicle for, emotions yet to be felt. Easter is an example; and there are hazards.

Some years ago I wrote and recorded, as early as January, a half-hour programme to be broadcast in Holy Week. Unfortunately, the producer forgot to remove an edit. And there, on Good Friday, in the middle of my solemn and serious meditation, came the words which I thought were never heard outside *It'll Be Alright on the Night*: "Sorry, let me do that bit again." My most heartfelt prayer that Good Friday was to thank God that that was all I had said.

The days leading up to Easter are ones of great and constantly changing drama. Moods change with the speed of a tropical storm. Joy, agony, elation, despair and celebration trip over each other. Sermons, seemingly by the dozen, each picking up a

different mood, have to be prepared in advance of the mood. This year, I felt rather like John Major, Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown rolled into one — on the stump, waiting for polling day.

Yesterday was a black day, a day beloved of church treasurers who can gloat over a darkened church with no lights left burning. It is also a day hated by the flower ladies, who, always wanting to "get things done", are upset when they can't. "No, I'm sorry, Joan, you can't bring the Easter lilies into church today. No, not even to hide them in the pulpit... He may have let you leave them there, I know. You told me last year. But I'm not the last vicar; I'm sorry, I'm me. Yes, Joan, all these services probably do get in the way of the people who are trying to work in the church to make it look nice for the visitors... Why don't you just stop for a few minutes and join in? Oh, that's a shame. You haven't got time for things like that; what with the shopping and cooking and all the family home — I'm sure you'll manage somehow... And the church will look lovely on Sunday."

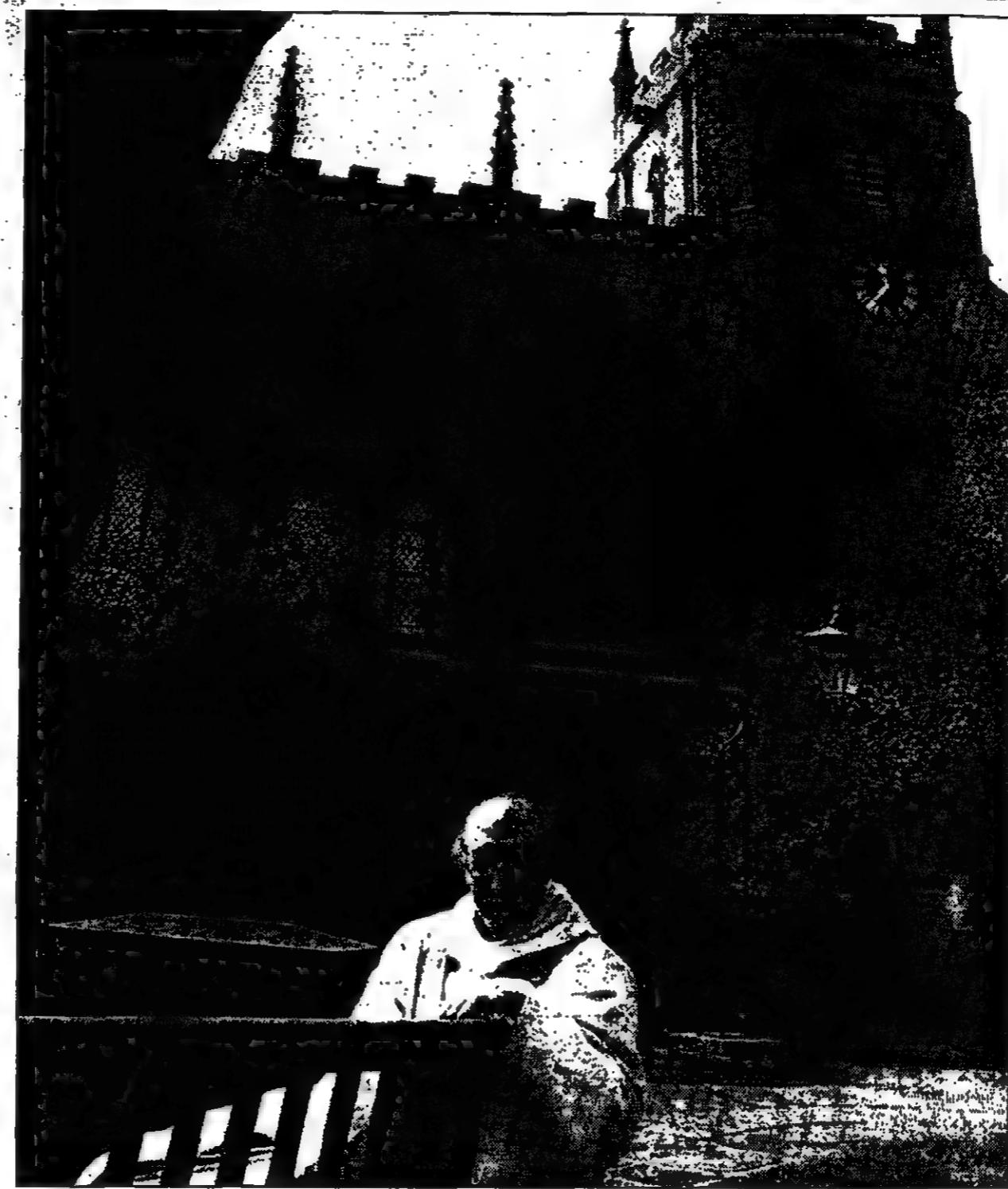
And, of course, it will.

Today, Easter Eve, is the day of preparation. It's a sort of limbo day. It was like that for the first disciples, too. It is a day of anticipation. After early morning matins, I won't dare set foot in the church until late this afternoon, by which time I hope all the hassle will be over. Last year I went in at lunchtime, knocked over a flower pedestal that was just inside the door and then stood on the Easter Garden, which had been left in my vestry for safety. I learnt my lesson.

Tomorrow — Easter Day — makes it all worthwhile. I have always loved Easter, even as a child. My mother used to put cochineal in the water when she boiled the breakfast eggs. They were such a pretty pink I never wanted to crack them.

Of course, had it not been for that first Easter Day, I should now have no job, or certainly it would be something very different. No Resurrection — no church. Christianity is about Easter, not Christmas. Light, not darkness. The church will be full; the pews streaked with chocolate, as dozens of tiny fingers are wiped along them. The choir will be in full voice and I shall, once more, preach the triumphant Easter message.

For a moment, as I stand at the door



John Hawthorne prepares for the big day: "the church will be full, pews streaked with chocolate from tiny fingers"

after the service, I shall allow myself to dream. But not for long. "Lovely service, vicar. See you at harvest." Not for nothing is next Sunday called Low Sunday.

• The Reverend John Hawthorne is vicar of Tetbury, Gloucestershire. He will be writing an occasional column for the Out of Town page.

Feather report

Crackdown on egg robbers

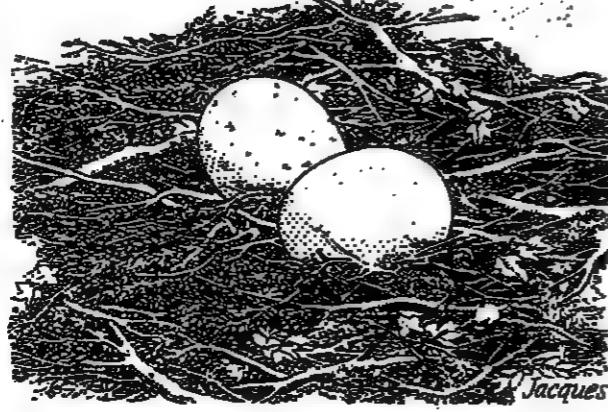
Easter and eggs: naturally these things go together in the season of new life. It is peak time for the birds; it is also the peak time for the extraordinary and destructive sub-culture of egg-collecting. Easter and egggers also, alas, go together. They have already robbed a golden eagle nest this year.

The rarer the bird, the more vulnerable it is to direct persecution, such as egg-collecting. Of course, the rarer the bird, the more the egggers long to persecute it.

We are not talking about rare birds that turn up for a fleeting moment and delight the twitching fraternity. Obviously, the only birds an eggger can persecute are breeding birds. Top of the list are birds of prey, still struggling to recover from the problems they suffered before DDT was made illegal in 1982.

Red kite is one of the egggers' favourite targets: six kite nests were robbed last year, making 63 nest robberies in the past 11 years. In 1990, robberies included nine osprey nests, nine red kite, 13 peregrine, four merlin, three golden eagle, three dorel, two goshawk and two hen harrier.

Research by the RSPB shows that the egggers are having an effect on the species they rob: the recovery rate is slowed by the relentless activity of the egggers. Egggers can be fined up to £2,000 an egg, and have treasured collections confiscated. The RSPB works



The prize: but takers can be fined up to £2,000 an egg.

hard to bring prosecutions, this keeps the eggers rate of increase under control.

They are easy people to hate. They are transparently wicked. They are the easiest hate targets in conservation, and hating them offends nobody.

Richard Porter, the head of the RSPB's investigation section, says that many of the eggers he has prosecuted "were very nice people. I got to know and like them. They are not the out-and-out rogues you find in some areas, crooked petshop owners, importers, taxidermists. They are not doing it for profit."

The mere possession of the egg is not the thrill: the chase. Mr Porter told me about an egg he had nabbed, who boasted: "I have never been beaten by a nest." He

had just robbed a chough's nest 100ft down a mine shaft.

"They come from all kinds of backgrounds," Mr Porter says. "I have known a medical officer of health and a down-and-out as egggers. Some of them budget for fines."

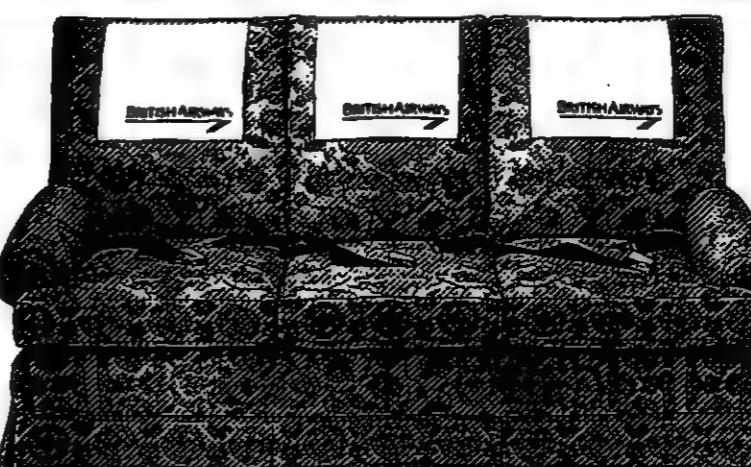
A psychologist has called egg-egg an "obsessional neurosis akin to kleptomania". That egg-egg is illegal, so widely condemned, so destructive, so self-evidently wicked, is what makes it so addictive.

This is a strange business, and a largely solitary one. There is no swapping of eggs: egggers want to keep each catch. They cannot even show their collections without huge risk, because the collections themselves are illegal. They are like millionaire gloatters with stolen masterpieces.

SIMON BARNES

• What's above: *Birders* — nests for willow warblers. *Twitters* — two adult Bonaparte's gulls at Plymouth Hoe; and hoopoe at Exminster, Devon. *Little Bunting* at Freshwater Ponds, Surrey. Details from Birdline. 0898 700222

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WHERE TO EAT



Sophistication with great views: Sir Terence Conran's Pont de la Tour brasserie

THERE is no catering within the Tower but exit passes are given for the self-service restaurant and snack bar on Tower Wharf which is designated The Kitchen, HM Tower of London, and serves standard fare.

● For culinary excitement, cross Tower Bridge to Le Pont de la Tour, in the Butler's Wharf building at 36D, Shad Thames. This is Sir Terence Conran's sophisticated brasserie with a 150ft river frontage, seats for 65 in the bar and grill, 100 in the restaurant, and shortly another 100 on the terrace. It is usually full and the cooks work hard to keep pace, dishing out excellent *plateaux de fruits de mer* and food in a bewildering variety of styles — even fish and chips. Bar: £20 for three courses. Restaurant: set lunch £21.50, dinner £35 plus 15 per cent service (last orders midnight) (071-403 5403).

● About 100 yards further east there is another stylish Conran offering, again with views of the Tower, bridge and river. The Blueprint Café in the Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, specialises in

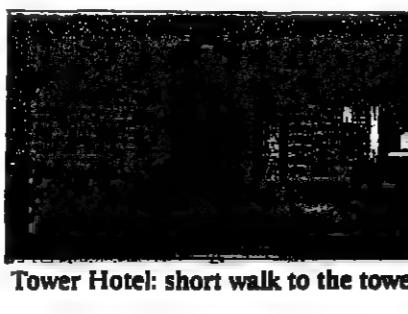
simple, sunny cuisine of mixed Mediterranean and Californian origins. Reckon about £27 a head (071-378 7031).

● In St Katherine's Way, beside the World Trade Centre just up the hill from the Tower Thistle Hotel, the Vineyard is one of a chain of London wine bars serving fish, steaks and puddings. Bills are about £20 a head (071-490 6630).

● A sophisticated newcomer is the marble-floored and air-conditioned Minster Pavement Café Bar, off Mincing Lane. A Richardsons Inn, it serves a City clientele with breakfasts from 7am, and quick bites, steaks and chef's specials through the day. Attractions include fountains, magicians, jazz and disco and karaoke evenings.

● Other restaurants close to the Tower are The Broker wine bar on the north side of Tower Hill (071-488 0131) and a branch of the Wheeler's seafood chain at the Tower end of Great Tower Street (071-626 3685). There is a McDonald's in the Tower Hill Pageant complex.

WHERE TO STAY



Tower Hotel: short walk to the tower river or garden views. Single £20, twin/double £226, junior suite £245, studio suite £270 and penthouse suites £465, all including breakfast. The weekend rate for a double room is £138 (071-836 3555).

Convenient for river boats from Charing Cross Pier to the Tower (or the District and Circle lines to Tower Hill), is the Royal Horseguards Thistle Hotel (071-639 3400), Whitehall Court, which has a few rooms with river views. Singles £99-£145, twin/double £110-£165, studio suites £185-£200. For short-term offers, ring Highlife Value Breaks on 0800 700400.

The Savoy, in the Strand, has just celebrated its centenary but remains the classic of London's grand hotels. A room without the river view does not cost as much as some of the other hotels. Singles are £185, twin/doubles £210 (£280 overlooking the river) and suites from £305 to £645, all including breakfast. At weekends there are special programmes including dinner and champagne, or wine and breakfast at £210-£290 for the first night and £200 for additional nights, but the supplement for river rooms is £65 a night (071-836 4343).

At the 137-room Howard, a quiet and modern hotel, there is no price difference in the standard rooms whether they have

river or garden views. Single £20, twin/double £226, junior suite £245, studio suite £270 and penthouse suites £465, all including breakfast. The weekend rate for a double room is £138 (071-836 3555).

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Robin Young urges more Britons to enjoy the horrors and highlights of our most authentic tourist attraction

The Tower of London is Britain's top-grossing tourist attraction, yet grossly undervalued by Britons themselves. More than three-quarters of the 2.75 million visitors who annually pay for admission (adults £6) come from abroad. A straw poll conducted outside Tower Hill station suggests that an even higher proportion of our own commuters who pass the place every day have never been inside. Most of the one-tenth or so who had were last there as children.

The summer queues winding around the moat garden terrace are no doubt a disincentive, but there is still time to beat them. At the ticket kiosk a notice warns how much longer you will have to queue once inside if you wish to see the crown jewels — 30 minutes, 60 minutes, 90 minutes or more.

Most days this month, though, there will probably be no queue to gawp at the jewels in their basement strongroom. To speed the flow the authorities have introduced a two-tier viewing system. Standing and staring is permitted for those on the outside, higher track but not for those below, who are closest to the glass display cases. After one circuit you can transfer to the other level to go round again. Considering that the Imperial Crown of India alone contains 6,004 precious stones, that there are another 3,737 in the Imperial State Crown, and that you have still to look for the Koh-i-noor



Tours of duty: Beefeaters make perfect guides

diamond in the Maltese cross at the front of the Queen Mother's crown, you will probably want to go round the second time. Do not ask what the jewels are worth. Nobody knows.

You may well, even at this time of year, have to stand in line with sado-masochistically inclined tourists and family parties if you want to have your flesh crawl at the display of instruments of punishment and torture in the Lower Martin Tower. Pride of place goes to the "Duke of Exeter's daughter", the rack named after the 15th-century Constable of the Tower, who imported it from France to pull victims limb from limb, and to its equally hideous opposite number, the "Scavenger's Daughter" or "Skeffington Irons", which contrived victims to death. Here also is the chopping block on which, in 1747, the Jacobite Lord Lovat became the last man to be beheaded in Britain.

This is the London Dungeon, Chamber of Horrors and Garrards and Aspreys all rolled into one, and then outdone several times over. You are in the world's most fabulous, yet most authentic, theme park, handed down to us ready-made by centuries of use and tradition. The theme is history.

Not the dry, academic and dusty history of politicians, documents and diplomacy, but the vicious, brutal and all-engaging history of the clash of arms and death of kings, of riot, murder, torture and execution, of vast wealth, vaunting ambitions and pathetic ends. This is a place to stir the imagination, fire the blood, and a moment later make it run cold.

You have read about it in books, heard it celebrated in song and proverb, and seen it in Shakespeare's plays, on the television in BBC drama series, and in films. Now walk the walls that warders paced, feel

the stones which prisoners scratched, and examine the armaments which dispatched your country's enemies, and probably some of your ancestors as well. £6? Frankly, it's a bargain.

The Tower was always intended to be a terrifying place. William the Conqueror, his biographer tells us, thought it was "of the first importance to overawe the Londoners". To that end, when he started building on the site of his original hasty, wooden fortifications within the Roman city walls, he imported the shining white stone from Caen in Normandy to edge the corners and pick out the window openings of his magnificent keep, the White Tower. At 90ft, it was the tallest building in London at the time, a fortress-palace and an awesome symbol of William's military might.

It is full now of the arms and armour of later centuries, but in the chapel of St John the Evangelist, on the first and second floors, we have the shrine which victorious William raised to his God of Battles. Stockily compact and sturdy, unornamented and obdurate, it brings the conqueror as close to us as most would probably wish to have him.

Almost as soon as the White Tower was complete it became a prison, and almost as soon as it became a prison escapes began. The Tower of London is Britain's Colditz. The first prisoner we know of, Ranulf Flambard, Bishop of Durham, locked up by Henry I in 1100, wined and dined his guards so lavishly that they became senseless, and then climbed out of a window and down a rope which had been smuggled to him in a wine cask. He lived to be forgiven. In 1244, the Welsh prince Gruffydd ap Llewelyn, a prisoner of Henry III, was not so lucky. His rope of knotted bed sheets came apart, and he plunged to his death.



Home-bred bird: Raven Master Dave Cope with Ronald

Since the days of Elizabeth, the White Tower has been principally used as a military storehouse. Now it displays part of the vast national collection of arms and armour in the care of the Royal Armouries.

Modern theme-park designers would have had nothing to tell the Stuart entrepreneurs about what brings in the gate money. The Armouries' earliest attractions were the Line of Kings, figures of English monarchs with carved and painted

heads, in armour and on horseback, and weapons and torture implements allegedly captured from the Spanish Armada. Spectacular and bloodcurdling though they seemed, they were full of anachronisms. William the Conqueror toted a musket, although he was dead centuries before firearms were invented, and none of the Spanish Armour had ever been aboard a Spanish galleon. Almost all of it was of later date and from other countries.

Now both the remnant fragments of the Line of Kings and the ferocious blood-letting gadgetry of the Spanish Armour are still on view, authentic testimony to showmen's centuries-old chicanery.

But there are riveting dreadful armours on display, too, none more formidably suggestive of their former owner than those made for Henry VIII. Henry in his Greenwich garnitures for tourney, fist and foot combat — all solid steel — would have made RoboCop look skimpily under-dressed.

When the Armouries were first opened to the public word got round that infertile women might conceive if they stuck a pin in King Harry's coypie. An Archbishop of Canterbury had it hidden away as too gross an incitement to superstition and ribaldry.

Arms and armour are eloquent, but in the Tower even stones speak. More than 400 inscriptions have been found,

Develop an island

If you yearn for the lonely sea and the sky, these seven beautiful, away-from-it-all islands

the Court of Chief Pleas. Living in a timewarp, it recognises no divorce law, in order to maintain the centuries old laws of inheritance.

The high cliffs of Sark's coastal scenery provide spectacular walks. Accommodation varies from two or three comfortable hotels to simple B&B.

To get there, you can fly to nearby Guernsey, then take a 40-minute journey by launch to Sark, where a tractor-drawn bus meets boats. There are no cars, but cycles and horse-drawn carriages can be hired. (Details from Tourism Information Office, 0481 832345.)

● **St Agnes, Isles of Scilly:** Of the five inhabited islands which lie 28 miles southwest of Land's End, this is the least influenced by tourism. The population is

about 60; there are a few guesthouses and one pub, the Turk's Head. The island measures about one and a quarter miles by a quarter of a mile, and has a separate island, Gugh, which has neolithic remains and is linked at low tide by a sandbar. The islanders fish and farm; visitors are a sideline.

The other small islands in the group are Bryher, St Martin and Tresco, which has its own heliport. To get there, fly or take a boat to the main island, St Mary's, then on by launch — about 15 minutes. (Details from Isles of Scilly Tourism Office, 0720 225361.)

● **Lundy, Bristol Channel:** This is leased to the Landmark Trust, which preserves historic buildings and lets them for holidays. A castle keep (built by

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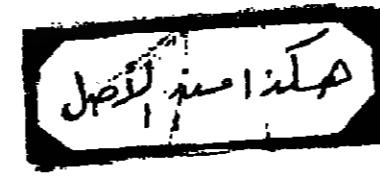
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GETTING AWAY



the instruments of torture, the jewels and the armaments which dispatched this country's enemies, and probably some of our ancestors as well



... might: stone from Caen edges the corners of the 90ft White Tower, a mark of William the Conqueror's power

onto the Tower walls by
war and warders alike.
The most poignant are
decorations of faith carved
by those who fell off the Tudors'
switchback into Tower
moat.

The Salt Tower, now
a detailed astrological
while awaiting trial on a
vast screen. The room in
which Tower used for
prisoners in Tudor times
is particularly evocative

collection, none more ornate
than that by John Dudley
showing the Warwick bear and
ragged staff with the Dudley's
lion with two tails and a frieze
of flowers to represent the four
brothers who were imprisoned
with the sculptor.

The Dudleys were imprisoned
in 1553 after the failure of
their father's attempt to place
the 16-year-old Lady Jane Grey
on the throne. Guilford, who
aged 19, was Jane's husband,
was executed outside the Tower

in front of the mob while she
was decapitated in Tower
Green.

I have no need to conduct you
round the Tower. Since the place
has more than 20 towers,
two chapels, the Stuart New
Armouries, the Royal Fusiliers
museum, and the Queen's
House built for Anne Boleyn,
who was then put to death on
the lawn outside, it is just as
well.

But I am relieved of the duty
because the Tower has guides

like no others. The Yeoman
Warders have guarded the royal
palace since the 11th century.
Theirs is the longest
continuous history of any
armed force in the world, and
they must still qualify for the
honour with 22 years' service as
warrant officers in the army,
Royal Marines or RAF, and
with a recommendation from
their commanding officer.

There are 42 of them, living
in the Tower and intensely
proud of it. None has more

sunshine when cloud hangs
over the mainland and the
neighbouring island of Mull.

The 13th-century abbey, the
remains of a nunnery and
numerous Celtic high crosses in
carved stone are reminders of
its early importance as a religious
centre. Its serenity is
slightly lessened in summer by
day visitors. (Details from
*Oban, Mull and District Tourist
Board*, 0631 63122.)

• Barra: The smallest and
southernmost of the outer Hebrides
can be reached by plane, which lands
on the beach at low tide. Sir Compton Mackenzie
(author of *Whisky Galore*) is buried
at the 12th-century church of St Barr. Little
happens in Barra, apart from a
Gaelic festival in July. You can
walk the 14 miles or so round
the island, arrange fishing trips
and dinghy hire (weather permitting).

• Iona, Hebrides: Regarded as
a spiritual oasis, it is home to the
Iona Community which
holds retreats and conferences.
Before the arrival of St Columba
in 563, the island had been
adopted by sun-worshipping
druids. Visitors still remark on
the clarity of light over Iona
and the way it is often bathed in

CLARE COLVIN



There are no problems with rights of
way and footpath maps in London.
From the Tower one can head off in
various directions, though do please use
the underpass to and from Tower Hill
underground station. If trying to cross
Tower Hill, it not only avoids the fierce
traffic, but takes you past the best
surviving section of the Roman city wall.

Possible options are to go northwest
through the narrow lanes of the City in
search of livery halls, Wren churches and
taverns, northeast to Whitechapel or east to
Docklands.

The route I have chosen strikes south to
Southwark, over Tower Bridge. The two
main towers and high-level
walkways are open to the
public, displaying the original
steam engines which raised
and lowered the bascules until
1976, and offering superb panoramic
views of the Tower and the river. Go to the south side
of the bridge and take the first
turn right into Tooley Street,
following signs to HMS Belfast,
the battle-cruiser which
helped to sink the Scharnhorst
and is now a floating museum.
Picke Herring Lane is the
approximate site of Quip's
wharf featured in *The Old
Curiosity Shop*.

Return to Tooley Street by
Battle Bridge Lane, the area of
warehousing which used to be
known as "London's larder".
The railway arches and ware-
houses along the south side of
Tooley Street accommodate
wine bars, the London Dungeon
warwick display, and large wine
stores. Hay's Galleria is a conversion of
Hay's Wharf warehousing which
pioneered refrigeration for food storage.

After the London Dungeon turn left
through Joiner Street, a tunnel beneath the
railway, to Guy's Hospital, where the
courtyard and chapel are usually open to
visitors and there is a popular patisserie
called A Piece of Cake. On the other side of
St Thomas Street is the Victorian St
Thomas's Hospital operating theatre
preserved as a museum, with an operating
table like a butcher's slab, surgical
instruments like workmen's tools, a box of
sawdust to catch the blood, standing room
for students, and a leather strap for
patients (female) to bite on in the absence
of anaesthetics.

Turn left down Borough High Street,
and at the third turn on the left stop at the
George Inn with its yard, the only surviving
galleried coaching inn in London and
where Maggy suggested young Tip should
write his begging letter in *Little Dorrit*. The
low bar, with beams, inglenook fireplace
and Parliament Clock, is very atmospheric,
though often crowded. Cross Borough
High Street by the war memorial and go
through the gate to the yard adjoining No

50. a timber-framed building which was
once the Goat Inn.
Return north along Borough High
Street, under the railway bridge, turn left
and descend the flight of steps to the right
to Southwark Cathedral. After visiting,
turn right from the south porch, go up the
steps and right into Cathedral Street, and
take the first left to St Mary Overie Dock to
see the topsail schooner Kathleen & May.

Along Pickford's Wharf, past what was

the London residence of the bishops of

Winchester, is Clink Street, site of Clink

Prison, Bankside, the Anchor pub and,

after passing under Southwark Bridge, the

Shakespeare Globe Museum in Bear

Gardens. Walk along Bankside to look at

the topsail schooner Kathleen & May.

The walk can be terminated at Cannon

Street station, or you can complete

the circuit by returning to the Tower via

Cannon Street, diverting left down Martin

Lane for the Olde Wine Shades, the City's

oldest wine bar, and right into Arthur

Street to the Monument, up Pudding Lane,

and right into Eastcheap leading to Great

Tower Street, Tower Hill and the Tower.

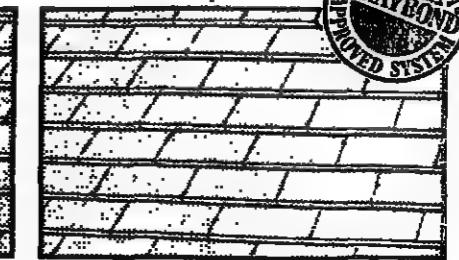
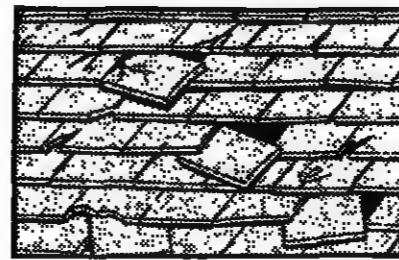
• The total distance is about four miles, but a full tour of all the places of interest passed would easily fill a day. A London A-Z or Nicholson

London Streetfinder are the best maps to follow.

Up and under: the route skirts Tower Bridge

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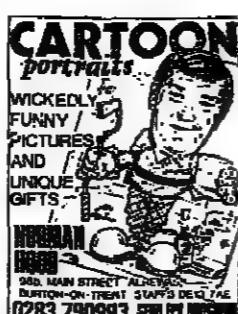


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08

A wealth of Dutch treats

Francesca

Greenoak reports
on the 1992 Dutch
Floriade, in which
30 countries set
new standards in
growing and
showing, and
environmental care

The Dutch take horticulture seriously: 90 per cent of the world trade in bulbs, 70 per cent of cut flowers and more than 50 per cent of the pot plant business stem from their small country. Accordingly, you would expect The Netherlands' once-a-decade Floriade garden show to be something special. It is.

The 1992 Floriade lacks the vulgarity of some British garden fests, focusing instead on the horticultural brilliance of 30 countries. Tucked into a 170-acre triangle of land in Zoetermeer, near The Hague, the exhibition sets new standards.

The huge principal opening display of Dutch tulips in the main exhibition hall achieves perfection in every plant. The tulips are outstandingly grown, with straight stems and good clear colours, juxtaposed in crisp groupings. The huge trumpets of *Hippocratea* (colloquially, amaryllis) are overwhelming *en masse*, especially as no plant has fewer than four flowers and there are several new full-skinned double kinds.

Tulips (about 375 different varieties) are also part of outdoor displays, combining imaginatively with hyacinths, ivies, hyacinths and wood anemones feature in containers and terrace plantings. Inside and out, the sweet heavy scent of hyacinths of 40 or more kinds combines with the foxy muskiness of crown imperials (*Fritillaria imperialis*) just opening their amber and flame flowers.

It is early days for the outdoor displays, but they are off to a good start. At the British garden (principally sponsored by Marks & Spencer), John Ravenscroft of Bridgemere nurseries explained the policy of showing plants not well known to the Dutch in a quartered design of summer flowers, roses, pools and a kitchen garden. Holder of the



National Collection of *Pulmonarias*, he chose the clear, deep blue *Pulmonaria angustifolia* azured with its narrow, unspotted leaves as partner to groups of rich blue hyacinths. Among the new plants, the shapely, purple-tinged leaves of the primula *Dusky Lady* make a good show well before the wine-coloured flowers appear.

Russian peacockeas, with names such as Chevonyj and Khokhlova (not yet to be found in the European plant directories), promise future excitement as they begin to unfold. In the Japanese garden, conifers and evergreens such as yew, *Chamaecyparis obtusa* and the holly *Ilex opaca* are groomed in an elegant topiary.

Artifacts as well as plants provide interesting ideas. A beautiful Japanese trellis partition is constructed from sturdy, thick bamboo canes, bound together in a glossy green lattice with strong black twine. Romantic semi-ruins are suggested by a Dutch team which uses large irregular chunks of brick walling set out at different angles with wild flowers growing over it. Water plays a strong role throughout the show, linking and dividing exhibits with dykes, polders, lakes, streams, waterfalls and fountains, one of which spouts two silvery curves like leaping dolphins.

The environmental sections are also impressive, ranging from high-technology within an ecological framework to water use, with entertaining displays aimed at adults as much as children and demonstrating the importance of having an environmentally aware horticultural policy which runs through government and growers and extends into education.

The Floriade runs until October at Zoetermeer. Entry 20 florins (about £5.50), child 12.50 (about £4). Details from travel agents or The Netherlands Tourist Board (071-828 7913).



Trumpeting spring massed tulips in the Keukenhof Gardens and (inset) a display from Floriade

BEST BUY

THERE has been a revival of enthusiasm for old-fashioned, fragrant summer-flowering pinks such as the white Mrs Sinkins, White Ladies and the crimson-laced Gran's Favourite. Recent hybrids tend to be longer-flowering but less fragrant, though Doris and Denis are worth considering. Pile's Pink is also sweet smelling. The new Devon Dawn and Devon Delight have a slight fragrance; pink Devon Glow is stronger. Larger plants from nurseries can be split into two before planting to give double the value.



Fragrant: *Dianthus allwoodii*

- Re-sow bare patches of lawn, having pricked them over with a fork and raked and firmed.
- Complete dividing and replanting snowdrops and winter aconites.
- Protect young potato shoots from cold nights with spun fleece or newspaper.
- Take out old stumps of Brussels sprouts, broccoli and cabbages, and prepare ground for new crop.
- Keep houseplants watered and fed.

WEEKEND TIPS



MY PERFECT WEEKEND
We ask people in the public eye to reveal
the private fantasies that would turn
a weekend into 48 hours of pure magic

MARINA WARNER
Writer and historian

Where would you go?
The British Museum.

How would you get there?
By the underground to Tottenham Court Road.

Where would you stay?
In a secret cupboard near the frieze of the *Amazons from Bassae*, if there is one.

Who would be your perfect companion?
The Prince of Wales.

What essential piece of clothing would you take?
Two sleeping bags.

What would you have to eat?
Pan baguette — French bread soaked in the first pressing of southern Italian olive oil, with anchovies, olives, tomatoes and boiled eggs.

What would you have to drink?
A fine sauvignon.

What would you take to read?
Social Trends 22, 1992 edition.

What music would you listen to?
Strauss's *Four Last Songs*.

What would you watch on television?
A documentary about the traditional role of the monarch as patron of arts and learning: a profile of Lorenzo il Magnifico, for example.

What film would you watch?
Boyz 'n' the Hood.

Would you play any games?
Charades.

What luxury would you take?
Ripe mangoes.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
Blake's Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience (they are there already).

Who would be your least welcome guest?
A policeman.

What three things would you leave behind?
My temper, anxiety, and my various shortcomings as a person.

What three things would you most like to do?
Persuade the prince that the King's library should not be emptied of its collections of

books, manuscripts and letters. Persuade him that the Reading Room should be saved, with its bookcases, and the books in them, and that Reading should still go on in the Room: that it shouldn't be turned into a course with tropical plants, and that, for instance, the museum could use it as its own reference library. Persuade the prince that charges in either museums or libraries violate his subjects' equality of access to knowledge. What medicines would you take?
A feather with which to tickle him until he capitulated.

To whom would you send a postcard?
David Mellor, national heritage secretary.

What souvenir would you bring home?
A signed undertaking from the prince to think about all the things I want.

What would you like to find when you got home?
That the libraries had been given the advertising budget of the armed services towards keeping them open every day and helping them buy to books. (This is just for a start: I'd be happy with some of the royal lolly earmarked for this cause, too.)

Interview by
Rosanna Greenstreet

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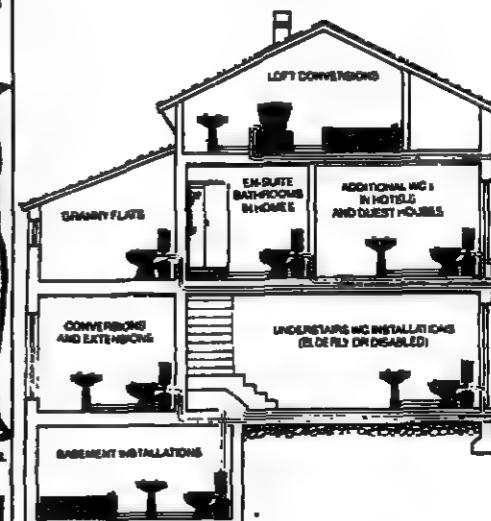
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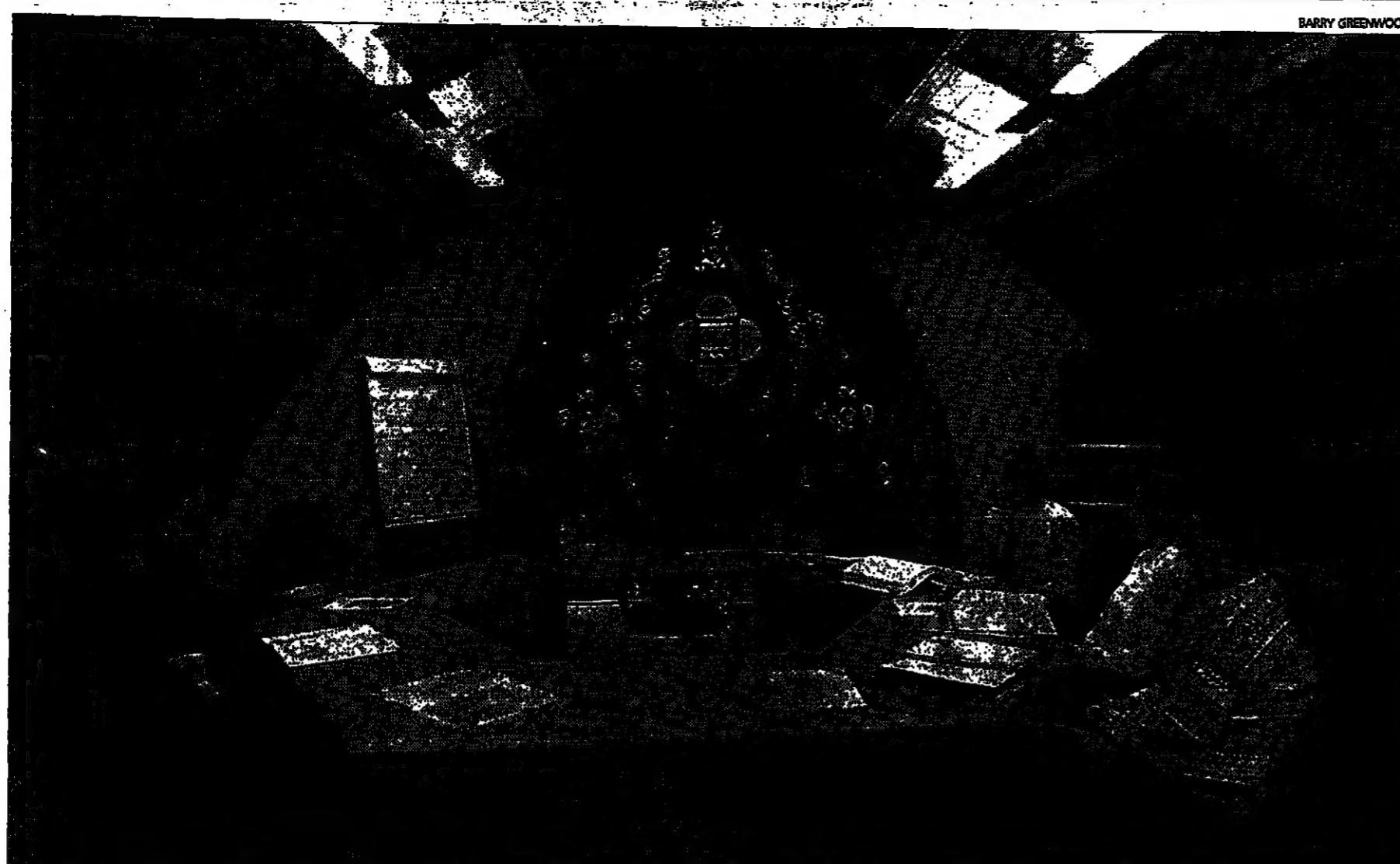
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Faith in their work: St Paul's church, in Didsbury, Manchester, is now the Open College headquarters, combining modern interiors with ecclesiastical tradition

Preach in the converted

Lynne Greenwood finds that redundant churches are being successfully born again as homes or unusual office space

Every day staff at the Open College headquarters use a computerised key-card to open the 115-year-old-arched pine doors of St Paul's Methodist church. In contrast, the porch where they hang their coats is lit by the original metal-framed lantern, which has shone down on worshippers for more than a century. Inside St Paul's, at Didsbury, Manchester, the combination of ancient and modern, of ecclesiastical tradition and 1990s interior design, is impressive.

Ten years after the church celebrated its centenary, in 1977, dwindling congregations and rising heating bills persuaded the Church of England Commissioners to sell the building to a developer. After a conversion costing more than £600,000, the stone church is now home to three floors of office space for up to 50 Open College staff. The college, which provides vocational training, chose the church as its new headquarters, combining former offices in London and Manchester.

Philip Wilshaw, the financial director, whose first-floor office includes a stone arch and carved stonework, says: "We had been housed in rather faceless office blocks. This place stood out because it is unique."

Between 1900 and 1989 the Catholic church in England closed only 52 churches. The Church of

England, however, made 1,292 churches redundant between 1969 and 1990. Alternative uses were found for 55 per cent of them, 24 per cent were demolished, and 21 per cent preserved by the Redundant Churches Fund, financed in partnership with the Department of the Environment to maintain churches of architectural or historic interest where services are no longer held.

Of those which found a new use, most were given over to civic, cultural and community use, including a county record office, media library, and an exhibition and tourist centre. Others were converted into homes.

Over the same period, £16.6 million was raised from the sale of redundant churches and sites, of which £2.5 million was given to the Redundant Churches Fund.

In 1990, the last year for which figures are available, the future of 33 redundant churches was settled, with 68 still to be decided. But it is a growing problem for churches of many denominations, particularly in inner cities where the population dwindles, and churches are left in need of urgent, expensive repairs.

In January, the Church of England's Liverpool diocese announced

it was to close seven churches as part of a restructuring of its inner-city parishes, the most drastic closures in recent church history. In the Norwich diocese St Martin-at-Palace has been successfully converted into a probation day centre, and the village church of St Michael at Costessey is leased to Norwich Historic Churches Trust and used as a sports centre.

Strict regulations control the future use of all churches, many of which are listed buildings and subject to tough planning regulations. The exterior of St Paul's, a Grade II listed building, remains as it was when the building was first opened.

Inside, the nave pillars of polished Aberdeen red granite now stand solidly alongside pastel-coloured walls and screens which divide computer-filled offices. Bath stone nave arches capped with intricate carvings provide original decoration.

Chris Maybin, the architect who spent almost a year on the project, says the height of the carved stone caps, decorated with pheasants, hares, foxes and owls, determined the different floor levels.

His first big structural problem was ridding the pine roof timbers of

dry rot and expelling the nesting pigeons from the roof space and spire. On the top floor, he created two conference rooms, each with a beautiful window.

There were no stained glass windows in the former United Reformed Church at Warley, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, when the potter David Holmes paid £3,500 for the empty building in 1979. After spending thousands of pounds and years of work restoring the stone exterior of the mock-Gothic church, and converting its interior, he is now offering one of

two four-bedroomed units for sale at £85,000.

Built in 1705, with later additions, the village church is surrounded by overgrown grave stones and monuments, the earliest of which dates from 1753. "It was a condition of the sale that they were not disturbed," Mr Holmes says.

In Highfield, Sheffield, the Victorian Anglican church of St Barnabas was bought by the Yorkshire Metropolitan Housing Association for a £1.5 million conversion to four floors of sheltered accommodation. Phil Smith, the senior development manager, says it was a particularly good site for sheltered accommodation "because the church is in the heart of the community, with all the services old people need."

Two four-bedrooms units for sale at £85,000.

Buyers' France

EAST PYRENEES

The further south and east you go in the Pyrenees, the stronger the influence of the Mediterranean. The climate in the Pyrenees Orientales, extending from Perpignan to the Spanish border, is the driest and the sunniest in France. However, property prices are half those in other, more fashionable, parts of the south.

Half an hour inland from the Mediterranean coast at St Cyprien, near the old town of Thuir, you can buy this pretty terrace house (right) for £27,000, situated in a peaceful village surrounded by vineyards. It is 30 minutes' drive from the airport at Perpignan, and an hour from the ski slopes at Font Romeu.

The old stone house has been partly restored and is habitable, but needs modernisation. It has a kitchen and living room on the ground floor, two bedrooms and a shower-room upstairs, and an attic. The UK agent is La Collection Francaise, 66 High Street, Manton, Marlborough, Wilts (0672 516266).

The southeast Pyrenean region, with its craggy landscape split by spectacular gorges and scattered with Cathar castles and Romanesque churches, provides excellent summer walking. Winter skiing is good, too, with several sunny ski resorts, including Font Romeu and Les Angles.

The coast is less inspiring. The area around Perpignan is the poor man's Riviera, with a Mediterranean coastline and a rash of new resorts aimed at low-budget French tourists. However, property is cheaper than on the Côte d'Azur. Prices start at £15,000 for a small seaside studio, and from £32,000 for a two-bedroom holiday villa.

Further south, close to the Spanish frontier, the scenery improves, with picturesque fishing villages such as Collioure and Port Vendres. A modern two-bedroom villa here costs about £55,000. Agent Propriétés Roussillon, Benjamin House, 10 Portland Street, Birmingham (021-327 3654).

The best property buys are to be found in the rugged hinterland, with its crop of pretty hilltop villages and old houses for less than £30,000.

A dilapidated two-bedroom cottage, accessible only by a narrow, stony road, costs about £15,000. A three-bedroom house with breathtaking views but without a modern kitchen or bathroom will cost from £35,000.

Village houses, clustered around a square, a church and a boules pitch, start at £20,000 for anything that is habitable. A renovated house with two bedrooms and a roof terrace, but without a garden, would cost

from £30,000.

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Village houses, clustered around a square, a church and a boules pitch, start at £20,000 for anything that is habitable. A renovated house with two bedrooms and a roof terrace, but without a garden, would cost

from £30,000. There are also a number of large farmhouses, often with land, from £40,000 unrenovated and from £70,000 to £200,000 for the modernised version.

A good-sized farmhouse, partly renovated and with outbuildings, near the Spanish border, is for sale at £75,000 through La Collection Francaise. It has beautiful, far-reaching views.

The region is easily accessible by plane, with international airports at Perpignan, Montpellier and Toulouse. Allow at least 12 hours to drive from Calais.

CHERYL TAYLOR

ROSS DRINKWATER

Home from home: Dwina Murphy-Gibb in Oxfordshire

Spirits having flown in

When Dwina Murphy-Gibb, the wife of singer Robin Gibb, flies in from America — where she has a Florida mansion — and walks through the stone porch of her medieval Oxfordshire home (a former prebendary), she is a different woman.

"I can completely relax and wear long flowing gowns instead of beach gear. It's wonderfully cool here. I actually hate the sun in Florida and spend a lot of my time inside. Given the choice, both Robin and I would rather live in our Oxfordshire home permanently — it makes me feel part of history."

Work prevents Mr Gibb, the 42-year-old Bee Gee, from spending more than about three months of the year in his ancient home, once a training ground for priests and reputedly visited by Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. His 39-year-old wife prolongs her trip by spending about "two months here and two months there", although the couple are always in England for Christmas.

Their nine-year-old son Robin-John fits his schooling around his parents' itinerant lifestyle. "He has one school just outside Thame and another in Florida," Mrs Murphy-Gibb explains. "He doesn't find it difficult to catch up with friends again — he particularly loves the American school summer camp — but the different maths can be a bit confusing."

Robin-John is clearly aware of his dual existence. Each thick wooden door in his Oxfordshire home bears elaborate childhood drawings stuck on Blu-tac announcing that one is entering the State of Mississippi (downstairs) or the State of Vermont (upstairs).

The Gibb's two homes could not



Living in the past: Dwina Murphy-Gibb prefers her medieval prebendary to the Florida home

be more different. The imposing white and green Florida house is built in an American mock-Georgian style and sits grandly on the Biscayne Bay. The Oxfordshire Prebendal is equally grand (I initially mistook the gatehouse for the real thing) but is firmly medieval with its own chapel, a ruined wall with traces of soot from an ancient fire, and the great hall where logs burn fiercely in winter.

The furniture is in keeping with both the period and Mrs Murphy-Gibb's fascination with the past (her book *Cormac the Seer*, about a 3rd century Celtic monarch, was published this year by Piat, price £7.99). Hence the suit of armour which arrived as a surprise present for Robin-John from an American friend ("it took six months to get through Customs"), brass rubbings, gothic trestles, a huge refectory table round which the Bee Gees often dine, and four-poster beds.

In vivid juxtaposition are such high-tech items as a sit-square television in the Great Hall; a punch ball among Mrs Murphy-Gibb's collection of spinning wheels; and a video recorder at the foot of the matrimonial bed for playing back Robin-John's home movies (he has a cinema).

The owner was initially reluctant to sell to a London pop star in case he painted the walls purple and held wild parties, but finally relented. Since then, the Gibbs have painstakingly continued to restore and maintain original features.

In between school runs and transatlantic flights Mrs Murphy-Gibb also writes poetry, paints in the adjoining refectory, and occasionally cooks if the full-time matriarchal chef in their American home (all vegetables come from the organic garden).

And when they are in Oxfordshire, Mrs Murphy-Gibb says the family joins in the community as much as possible: "Robin is honorary chairman of the cricket club, and I'm a member of the Thames Historical Society."

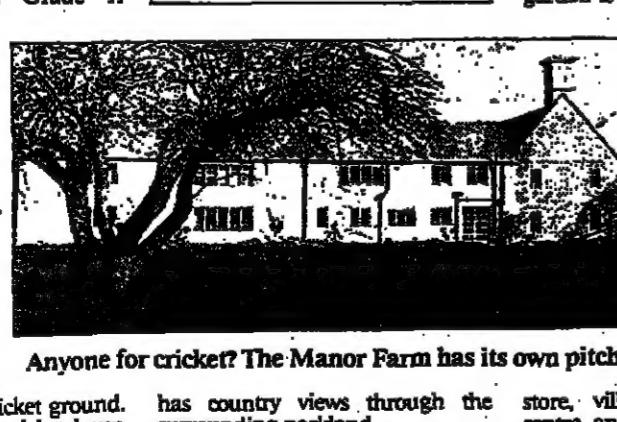
Partying is equally important, although not on the wild scale that the former owner envisaged. The upper floor of the beamed refectory makes an ideal venue for Mr Gibb to sing, his wife to play the harp and their son to tinker on the trumpet.

JANE BIDDER

Bowling into country life

HOUSE HUNTER

Manor Farm
Somerset



Anyone for cricket? The Manor Farm has its own pitch has country views through the surrounding parkland.

The house has seven bedrooms, with an L-shaped, south-facing drawing room with doors to the garden and an inglenook fireplace.

The rooms have low ceilings, but are light thanks to the windows.

RACHEL KELLY

• Black Horse agencies (0460 72403).

Golf swing could cure old abbey's handicap

Heap of the week: Vale Royal Abbey

Vale Royal Abbey needs a change of luck. More than 50 planning applications have been lodged on the part-medieval property in two decades but a solution seems as far away as ever. Yet this is prosperous Cheshire countryside, just outside Northwich and within easy commuting distance of Manchester.

Vale Royal district council planning committee last year agreed an application for an enabling development of 48 houses, but strong local opposition persuaded the full council to overturn the decision.

The applicant, BHC of Bradford, rather than modifying its plans, now says 63 houses are needed to generate sufficient funds for the



repair of the abbey. It proposes a golf course with the restored abbey as a clubhouse, and houses on land in front of the abbey. Basic repairs, says its architect, Andrew Brown of MacCormack Associates, will cost £1.3 million.

"When I first saw the house two years ago it was in an abominable condition, wetter inside than out. The parapet gutters had failed and the structure was saturated," he says. Since then the roof has been repaired, interior fittings put into store and the house has dried out.

In 1977, the abbey was acquired by the Michaelmas Trust for use as a centre for mentally handicapped young adults. But the trust over-

stretched itself and work came to a

halt halfway through a disastrous programme of roof repairs, done with the Manpower Services Commission using unskilled labour.

The abbey is built on an Elizabethan E plan, extended at the back by a vast Victorian wing. Founded by Edward I in 1277, it was the

MARCUS BINNEY

• Further information from Martin Bayar at Vale Royal council.

JANE BIDDER

Crafts over the counter

Original work is now available in a department store. Charlotte Bevan reports

Harvey Nichols has recently opened its revamped fourth-floor home department. Beside the trusty traditionalists — Ralph Lauren with striped bedlinen and Mulberry with classic florals — is an altogether different concept at the upmarket London store.

Exotic gold and frosted glassware, painted metal room powderers, hand-painted silk cushions — all are limited-edition designs, made by some of the best contemporary decorative artists working today, and they belong to the Contemporary Collection from Wilson and Gough.

It has taken the Wilson and Gough gallery just two years of business at its Brompton Cross premises to be head-hunted by Harvey Nichols for a permanent concession at the store. But then, Julie and Neal Wilson Dyer Gough, the husband and wife team who started the gallery in 1989, always knew they had to work. As a photographic stylist for the big advertising companies of the 1970s and 80s, Julie had been researching the market for ten years.

She had friends who were artists and she had met the sort of collectors who might be inspired to buy their work. But there was no forum in London for exhibiting it — a gap waiting to be filled.

"When Neal asked me on our honeymoon what I imagined myself doing in the next seven years, I said, 'Well, actually, I've got this idea....' Julie says.

By setting up a gallery, the couple wanted to show that there was more to craft and design than the clutter of the 'ye olde craft shop' or the mass-produced "designer" labels of the 1980s. They felt that if they gave contemporary craftspeople — from weavers to furniture-makers and glass artists — the profile and space of an art environment, the public might begin to take their work as seriously as, say, antiques.

Finding the right location took 18 months. Finally an old butchers shop in Draycot Avenue, south-west London — among the outposts of design leaders such as Conran and Joseph — came up for sale, and it was converted into a mezzanine-style gallery space by David Chipperfield, the architect.

Then the couple launched their



Dealing in tomorrow's antiques: Neal and Julie Wilson Dyer Gough believe in getting down to basics — and careful marketing

first exhibition. "I thought, 'What can we do to rock everyone a little bit?'" Julie says, "and no one represented metals. We exhibited everything from silver to pewter to bronze, and it was very successful."

The artists in their portfolio now — a list which has doubled to 100 since 1989 — 95 per cent are British. "Most artists have a really tough time of it in this country," Neal says. "In Japan and America, craft is better established."

Julie admits unashamedly that 80 per cent of those artists have studied at the Royal College of Art, "because I recognise that they have been through torture to get there." Many have taken their second degree at the RCA.

But the final decision to exhibit someone's work is subject to a maxim which applies to all aspects of the couple's relationship: "We've always had an agreement that if either of us has a good argument for pushing for something, then the other one owes it to them to sit down and listen."

Over the years both Julie and Neal have travelled extensively, particularly in Japan and America, where they have spoken to artists spotted in decorative arts reviews about joining the collection.

Neal still works as a freelance photographer. The couple have two children, Avarina and Sebastian. "It's been jolly hard over the past

four years. I wouldn't want anyone to think it was a piece of cake," says Julie, who describes herself as the one with the mad ideas.

But her schemes have come to fruition, and the "huge personal financial risk" and careful marketing have paid off. They believe they have struck a chord in people.

The kind of person who might collect art is now taking craft seriously. "I have heard people walk past the gallery with a friend, and say, 'That's my favourite shop in London,'" Julie says. But it takes a certain courage to walk into the minimalist space of a gallery with all those individually lit objects.

This is where Harvey Nichols comes in. Although the store is using the same artists, the collection is cheaper — prices are from £12 to £5,000 — and more home-orientated. From the Contemporary Collection you can buy hand-printed table linens or a candlestick from a glass range signed by Anna Dickenson, whose work is in museums all over the world.

"So much of 1980s was black and chrome, Alessi, kettles and Habitat," Neal says. "When you went to people's houses, everyone had the same chair. The next step up was spending more money. But things were exclusive only by price and not by number."

The couple do not decay the designer decade; in fact, their mews house has its share of Philippe Stark. They believe the 1980s made people more visual. It was just a question of getting back to "quality of life".

"When you get to the point where you open a Christmas present and you know immediately where it was from and how much it cost, life is somehow degraded," Julie says.

"Our products are designed by artists and go into limited production. It is more than a disposable item — it's a future antique."

• *Wilson and Gough gallery, 106 Draycot Avenue, London SW3 (071-823 7023), Harvey Nichols, 109-112 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 5000).*

Faith in the power of eggs

A Catholic priest in Manchester is keeping alive a Ukrainian art form

Father Paul Luniv's Easter eggs look mouth-wateringly rich. With elaborate designs and brilliant, jewelled colours they resemble exotic mosaics. But they are designed for higher things than eating. Father Luniv practises *pyzanty*, the traditional Ukrainian art of hand-decorating eggs with wax and dye. At Easter, they are blessed in church, ensuring whoever receives them a year of hope, love and protection from evil.

But the art form is in danger of dying out. Pagan in origin, it was adopted by the Christians in the 1st century, the egg symbolising the death and resurrection of Christ.

Under the communist regime, however, the church was forced underground and *pyzanty* skills, traditionally handed down from mother to daughter, were too risky to practise. According to Father Luniv, a Ukrainian Catholic priest based in Manchester, the most skilled practitioners now live in the West.

He began learning at the age of nine, watching his mother at their home in Halifax, West Yorkshire, where his refugee parents had arrived in 1948. But it was his travels — studying at the Ukrainian Seminary in Rome and working in the Ukrainian community in Philadelphia — that developed his techniques.

A metal stylus, warmed in a candle flame and dipped in beeswax, is used to draw the design free-hand on the raw egg shell. The egg is then immersed in dye, the uncoloured areas taking the colour. Another design is drawn, another coat of dye added (progressively moving from light to dark) until the artist judges the pattern complete. The egg is warmed to melt the wax before being varnished and blown.

While the method and tools are simple, the skill lies in producing a symmetrical pattern judged entirely by eye. "I'm aiming for a balance of design and colour, to get everything as equal as possible. To me, it is not correct unless it has perfect symmetry," Father Luniv says.

Each design or motif is symbolic.

Horizontal and vertical lines — always circular — convey eternity.

Triangles symbolise the Holy Trinity while crosses represent the

Resurrection. Plant symbols such as roses, sheaves of corn or branches, represent new life and health. The stylised animal motifs are a curious mixture of reindeer (wealth), fish (Jesus Christ), chickens (fertility) and doves (peace).

He works on a batch at a time during the winter evenings. The smaller eggs (quail, finch, duck and hen) require four to five hours of work, while the larger swan and goose eggs take up to ten hours.

"People think it must be tedious, but I find it totally relaxing and very contemplative," he says.

Although Father Luniv is happy to make to order, he stresses it is not a business. As for cost: "I leave it to people to decide what they think they're worth." (He was offered



Father Paul Luniv displays his skill

£500 two years ago for one of his ostrich eggs.) He donates the money to charity.

Father Luniv's work is on permanent display at the Ukrainian Catholic church in Manchester — as well as the Ukrainian museums in New York and Rome — and will be shown at Expo '92 in Seville.

He also teaches *pyzanty* and later this year is going to Ukraine to encourage the art. "I visited for the first time last May and was very surprised how few people were practising *pyzanty*. But, with glass, traditions and cultures are being revived."

HELEN PICKLES

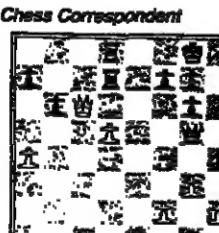
• For information on courses contact: Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, 51 Homerton Road, Moseley, Birmingham B30 2QF.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This year has been officially designated 'Alekhnine Year' in celebration of the great world champion who was born 100 years ago. This week we shall continue to feature positions from his games. Today's position is from the game Alekhine — Colle, Paris 1925. Alekhine, white to play, here concluded the game with typical brilliance. Can you see what he played?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The first three correct answers drawn on Tuesday next week will win a

Jumbo crossword book.

The answer will be printed in The Times on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Ke5. The winners are: W. Laurie, Enfield; M.J. Lane, Hemley-in-Arden; J. Clegg, London N5.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARTHROSIS RESEARCH

No other legacy can help so many people

Please, a donation to help Arthritis Research now: a legacy to help us in the future.

THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH

Dept. T1, Copeman House, St. Mary's Court, St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S1 7TD

Working to find an earlier cure

MCKEEVER AND WILLIAMS

Congratulations to Kevin and Niamh on their marriage and welcome to the newly married couple. Reception at The Burnham Beeches Hotel, Bucks. Guests are welcome from all their family and friends.

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BBC1

7.25 News and weather (6605550)
 7.30 Crystal Tipps and Alastair Animation (r) (3150296) 7.35 Wiz Bang. An interlude of fun and games. Last in the series (7086079)
 7.45 Bravestarr (r) (5003437)
 8.05 Eggs 'n' Baking. The last in the music and recipe series hosted by Cheryl Baker. The guests include milliner Jayne Leonard and chocolate sculptor Antonio Marconi (s) (7498418) 8.35 Thunderbirds Animation (r) (3224924)
 9.00 Getting Live! Last in the young people's entertainment series. Among the guests are Jonathan Porritt and Kylie Minogue; Lynn Dalton goes behind the scenes of *Beverly Hills 90210*; and Bill Oddie and Barbara Windsor are the "doubtless" victims (s) (9488518) 12.12 Weather (5474012)
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football, Snooker and Boxing: reviews of the week's news, 1.04 News and 1.45 and 4.00 Snooker; first round matches in the Embassy world professional championship; 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 Racing from Haydock Park; 2.05 Squash: the men's final of the Hi-Tec British open championship; 2.35 and 3.05 Ice Hockey: Murrayfield Racers v Durban Wasps; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.35 Final Score (7346944)
 5.10 News and Weather (1769295)
 5.20 Regional News and sport (8239031). Wales (to 5.50) Wales on Saturday
 5.30 Stay Tuned! Tony Robinson introduces a preview of the new British animation *Freddie* as *PRO7* (246963)
 5.55 Jim'll Fix It. Sir James Savile makes dreams come true for another selection of people of all ages. (Ceefax) (s) (290147)
 6.30 That's Showbusiness. Entertainment quiz presented by Mike Smith. This week's guests are Leslie Ash, John Altman, Ian Ravens and Julian Clary. (Ceefax) (s) (321)
 7.00 The Burbs (1989) starring Tom Hanks, Bruce Dern and Carrie Fisher. Ranting comedy about a man who becomes obsessed with finding out the truth behind the strange noises emanating from his neighbour's basement. Directed by Joe Dante who was responsible for the *Gremlins* movies. (Ceefax) (s) (590437)
 8.35 On the Up. Lame comedy starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire (r). (Ceefax) (s) (590437)
 9.05 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Sport and weather (603876)
 9.25 Casualty: Dangerous Games. Award-winning medical drama set in a city general hospital. Among the cases the staff have to cope with this week is a teenage runaway who shows signs of carbon monoxide poisoning (r). (Ceefax) (s) (559889)
 10.15 Film: *The President* (1988) starring Sean Connery, Mark Harmon and Meg Ryan. Thriller stronger on action than words with Harmon in good form as a former military policeman who is assigned to investigate a murder at a base commanded by an old antagonist. He manages to inflame the situation by failing for the commander's daughter. Directed by Peter Hyams. (Ceefax) (s) (634760)
 12.05 *Saints*. The last in the series of *Witness* (1957) starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. A stick of a judge, he is forced to leave the courtroom to avoid a second trial. For more details call *Witness* on 0898 121204 (calls charged at 4p per minute peak, 3p off-peak) or write to *Witness*, ITM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8UA. Videotape (119), and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.
 1.25 Weather (4567242)



Military antagonists: Connery and Harmon (10.15pm)

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SATELLITE

SKY ONE
 • Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
 6.00am Danger Bay (40614) 6.30 Elephant Boy (C37670) 7.00 Fun Factory (8575944)
 11.10 *Witness* (1957) starring Peter Cushing (152472) 12.00 Beyond 2000 (81654)
 1.00pm Reindeer (50302) 2.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling (10731) 2.00 Monday News (32342) 2.30 The Horse in the Garden (16241) 6.00 Reindeer (10730) 7.30 Holiday Dimensions (23454) 8.30 There Were the Days (50408) 9.30 Newsline (203934)
SKY MOVIES+
 • Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
 6.00am Showbiz (504747)
 8.15pm *Witness* (1957). Attorney Walter Matthau defends a German POW (54321) 10.00 *Final Judgment* (1988): A nurse is accused of murdering a patient (34073) 12.00 *Witness* (1957). Paul Newman plays

ambitious racing car driver (29571321)

11.00 Dayline (594701) 11.30 Our World (69944) 11.30 Dayline (594701) 11.30 *Newsline* Weekend (504747) 12.30pm Those Were the Days (78282) 1.30 *Witness* (1957) 1.30 *Witness* (1957) 2.30 *Witness* (1957) 2.30 *Witness* (1957) 3.30 *Witness* (1957) 4.30 *Witness* (1957) 5.30 *Witness* (1957) 6.00 *Reindeer* (50302) 6.30 *WWF Superstars of Wrestling* (10731) 7.00 *Monday News* (32342) 7.30 *Witness* (1957) 8.30 *Holiday Dimensions* (23454) 9.30 *There Were the Days* (50408) 10.30 *Newsline* (203934)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

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SKY SPORTS

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THE MUSIC CHANNEL

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